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Statement on Ukraine's Nuclear Ambitions Denied

Kiev International reports the Ukrainian parliament's Commission for Questions of Defense and State Security "has refuted" a statement made by Aleksandr Savelyev, vice president of the Russian Institute of National Security and Strategic Studies, to IZVESTIYA that "Ukraine and Kazakhstan are allegedly trying to temporarily privatize their nuclear arsenals." Serhiy Kolesnyk, a member of the Commission, cited "quite a number of documents" such as the "April resolution" on additional measures to obtain Ukraine's nuclear-free status and the agreement between Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk on the "resumption of the withdrawal" of nuclear weapons from Ukraine as examples of Ukraine's nuclear disarmament efforts.

Tajik Supreme Soviet Issues Statements

Dushanbe Radio carries several statements issued by the Tajik Supreme Soviet which address the ongoing rallies in Dushanbe. The participants in the rally in Shakhidon Square were asked to "end as soon as possible your surrounding of the government building. If you agree to our request the government is ready to forgive you... Should you disagree, the government will consider all measures available for normalizing the situation and will not consider itself responsible for any undesirable consequences." The Supreme Soviet defended those gathered in Ozodi Square by saying the ralliers "are not in any way against the holy religion of Islam." The citizens of Tajikistan were asked not to "remain indifferent." The statement said, "Do not allow [Dushanbe] to be changed into a center for political games. Defend it!" Finally those deputies who were not present for the Supreme Soviet were condemned as being indifferent "to the destiny of the people and the republic." "They have no excuse for this failure."

Japanese Foreign Minister Continues Visit

According to an ITAR-TASS report, Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe held a meeting with Boris Yeltsin during which they discussed a wide range of issues, including "progress in the drafting of a peace treaty between Russia and Japan."

Radio Rossii cites a spokesman for the Japanese delegation who said that Yeltsin advocates reducing the timeframe for implementing the phased plan regarding the disputed Kuril Island issue. During his meeting with Watanabe, Yeltsin also confirmed his intention to visit Japan in mid-September, according to Radio Rossii. INTERFAX notes that "Russia's and Japan's working groups have been instructed to draft a peace treaty between the two countries by next autumn, when Boris Yeltsin pays an official visit to Tokyo."

Turkmenistan Ends Gas Supply to Georgia

INTERFAX reports that the Turkmenistan Presidential Council has warned Georgia that it will no longer supply Georgia with gas "unless Georgia pays its debt by May 4." Georgia's dept equals 6.3 billion rubles. In a following report, INTERFAX cites Turkmen Deputy Prime Minister Nazar Suyunov, "the interruption of supplies does not amount to pressure: no country can afford to sell for credit."

Claims of Ukraine's Nuclear Ambitions 'Refuted'

AU0105165592 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] The Ukrainian parliament's Commission for Questions of Defense and State Security has refuted the statement by Aleksandr Savelyev, vice president of the Russian Institute of National Security and Strategic Studies, who said in an interview with IZVESTIYA that Ukraine and Kazakhstan are allegedly trying to temporarily privatize their nuclear arsenals.

Serhiy Kolesnyk, member of the Commission for Questions of Defense and State Security of the Ukrainian parliament, quoted quite a number of documents adopted by the Supreme Council and by President Leonid Kravchuk which are aimed at nuclear disarmament.

These are, in particular, the Supreme Council's April resolution on additional measures that enable Ukraine to acquire a nuclear-free status, the agreement between Leonid Kravchuk and Boris Yeltsin on the resumption of the withdrawal from Ukraine of nuclear weapons, and so on.

Byelarus Loses No Prestige Over Weapons Removal

OW0405170992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 4 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A few days ago the last remaining nuclear warheads for operational tactical missiles were removed from Byelarus with the consent of Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich. What has remained of the operational tactical weapons on the republic's territory will apparently be removed by the middle of May.

The leaders of some political organizations have been accusing the Byelarusian government and parliament of being too ready to consent to the removal of nuclear armaments from the republic's territory. Some politicians fear that nodody in the world will take Byelarus seriously if it has all these weapons taken away.

However, Kebich said in one of his speeches that the republic's desire to become a neutral, nuclear-free state did not mean that all nuclear weapons would immediately be withdrawn from Byelarusian territory. All tactical weapons would, he said, be removed before June 1, whereas the withdrawal of strategic arms would take two years. "The Republic of Byelarus will avoid any haste in this matter," he stressed. "This is a lengthy and fairly expensive enterprise. We will be doing the job at the same rate as other countries do."

In an interview with IF [INTERFAX], parliament chairman Stanislav Shushkevich gave his own point of view: "Neutral, nuclear-free Byelarus won't be the backyard of Europe any more than Switzerland is. As the head of state I will do my best to have all nuclear weapons removed from our territory."

Azerbaijan Radar Station Closing Debated

OW0205160892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1538 GMT 2 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The National Council of the Azeri parliament has set up a commission on exploration of the ecological situation in the Gabelinsky region of the republic, where one of the largest air- defense radar stations has been operating for several years. Ecologists are in favor of closing the station, since, in their opinion, it poses a serious threat to the environment and people's health.

However, a high-ranking official of the CIS air-defense forces told the "TURAN" News Agency that the radar station cannot be shut down because of its strategic importance. He said the station provides the surveillance of inter-continental ballistic missiles and "its closing would mean the destruction of the CIS nuclear umbrella". Besides, he stated that the station is ecologically harmless.

Importance of Paldiski Reactor Considered

LD0105202692 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0600 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Russia still considers that Paldiski is an extremely important installation for itself, and this was confirmed by Aleksandr Benyagin, President Yeltsin's adviser on military matters, in an interview with RAHVA HAAL.

According to Benyagin, the Russian Government does not as yet intend to found a new center on its territory to replace Paldiski, which is the only place to train crews of nuclear submarines. Russia still hopes to conclude a leasing agreement with Estonia. Aleksandr Benyagin took part in last week's conference in Parnu, and on Sunday [26 April] he visited the military base at Paldiski.

In an interview with RAHVA HAAL, he said the Paldiski center is not only important to Russia; it is highly important in itself. It is well known that there are 15 nuclear power stations on the territory of the former USSR. In the Navy, and partly also in the merchant marine, over 300 reactors are in use. But it is precisely with those 300 reactors that the risk factor is in fact very big, because nuclear submarines are also carrying nuclear weapons. An accident with a reactor on a submarine would have far more serious consequences than a similar accident at an ordinary nuclear power station.

The Paldiski center is necessary for Russia because it needs to train people how to act in the case of accidents, Aleksandr Benyagin stated. Should the Paldiski center be immediately closed or its main work be hindered in some way, the problem will instantly become an international one, because these 300 submarines do not concern Estonia alone, or Russia alone; it is a geopolitical issue, Yeltsin's adviser said.

Aleksandr Benyagin promised to find out immediately on his return to Moscow why the reactors at Paldiski are at a standstill. He said safety must naturally be ensured and the safety of the reactors must meet international standards. We have to determine what it was that caused concern to Estonia, eliminate the causes, and put the reactors back into action, Aleksandr Benyagin said in his interview with RAHVA HAAL.

Estonian Minister Comments

LD0105203992 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1400 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Admiral Fedor Gromov, who is leading the Russian working group on military issues at the meeting now taking place in Tallinn, told ETA that in his opinion Paldiski is not a very important center for Russia. The name of Aleksandr Benyagin, adviser to the Russian president, who made this claim in the Estonian press, does not mean anything to him either. It is most important at Paldiski to dismantle the reactors and to ensure an ecologically clean and safe environment for the Republic of Estonia. This, however, will take a certain amount of time, the admiral said.

Toomas Puura, deputy defense minister and leader of the Estonian working group at the talks, emphasized—I will quote him here—"I am not of the opinion that we should give up Paldiski to another country."

I would add that this item of news refers to an article in today's RAHVA HAAL.

Participants Review Nuclear Arms Conference

LD0105172292 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Excerpts] Participants of the international conference against nuclear weapons gave a news conference in Tallinn today. Hubert Veldermann was also present.

[Veldermann] The highly timely scientific conference on the prevention of the use and proliferation of nuclear weapons, which is causing concern to all people, lasted three days in Parnu and ended today with a news conference. The subject was the effect of the disintegration of the USSR on the accidental or unauthorized use of weapons of mass destruction.

The conference was convened by our Institute of Philosophy, Sociology, and Law; the Center for International and Strategic Studies at the University of California, and the Swedish Initiative Group for Avoiding Accidental Nuclear Wars. Prominent scientists, doctors, and professors from the United States, West European countries, as well as from Russia, Ukraine, and Byelorussia took part. Scientists-military experts, generals, and colonels from NATO, as well as from the United States, Russia, Sweden, and Germany also took part.

Mr. Karl Rebane, academician of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, what was special about the conference which has now ended?

[Rebane] What was special was that this time it was a conference for scientists. The majority of the scientists currently hold very important posts. [passage omitted] So they are also people personally involved in politics. Discussions were of a fairly conflicting nature. At the same time I must admit that in tone they remained scientific. The view we were left with at the conference is that it is in the interests of mankind—that is, in brief, also in the interests of Russia, Kazakhstan, and also the Estonian people—that nuclear weapons are not allowed to proliferate.

Legally however, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, or Byelarus are not nuclear states. [Passage indistinct] Even though they have nuclear weapons on their territory they have no potential for the manufacture of nuclear weapons; they have no possibility to operate or command nuclear weapons. [passage omitted]

Another aspect which I liked—and here we all were of the same opinion—was that in the present situation, and this concerns also Estonian [word indistinct], this also concerns the withdrawal of the Russian troops. One of the most important tasks in order to increase stability, both political and military stability, is serious work needs to be put in to increase trust. The Estonian leadership and the Estonian people, too, should know precisely what kind of army we have on this territory and how large it is. [passage omitted]

Another new aspect was that at the last conference in Copenhagen I spoke about nuclear power stations. This time there was more talk about nuclear power stations, and nuclear power stations were seen as being equal to nuclear [word indistinct] even. In fact, the difference is major, but as the danger of an intentional nuclear war has receded considerably, then it is understandable that this next danger is perhaps the greatest, this psychological danger of nuclear power stations. [Passage indistinct]

ABM Treaty Considered Barrier to Joint SDI

PM0105154392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 6

[Article by international law expert Bakhtiyar Tuzmukhamedov under the general heading: "Concept of Nuclear Deterrence Must Be Unshakable"]

[Text] The experts are still debating Russia's recent arms control initiatives. In contrast to recent times, however, the chorus of voices sounds rather discordant. Arithmetical calculations suggest that constructive critics seem to slightly outnumber no less constructive supporters of the proposals. However, legal experts are heard among neither group.

Yet some of the ideas on which the Russian initiatives are based give rise to questions from the viewpoint of the

international legal obligations which Russia has inherited from the USSR. In this connection I am alarmed by the possibility of destructive intrusion into the domain of the Treaty on the Limitation of Antiballistic Missile Systems (ABM Treaty), which has regulated activity in the sphere of ABM defenses for almost 20 years.

This intrusion could begin if a global ABM shield using developments within the framework of the U.S. SDI program and our own scientific achievements is jointly created and commissioned. Despite Russia's proclaimed loyalty to the ABM Treaty, this proposal in its present form could lead to the violation of several basic commitments under the treaty.

Let us begin with the fact that the treaty, which juridically established the concept of nuclear deterrence, is based on a paradoxical surrogate for trust: Aware of their ability to destroy each other many times over, the sides essentially renounce all attempts to counter this threat and consciously agree to be helpless to oppose a destructive strike. They are forced to trust the instinct of self-preservation of their partner, who, aware that he is defenseless against a retaliatory strike, will not deliver a first strike.

That is why the fundamental commitment under the treaty is the renunciation of the creation of the basis for ABM defenses of the whole country's territory. Only strictly limited deployment of ABM systems (in a single area) is permitted. However, a global system with space-based elements would be most suitable for territorial ABM defenses.

In detailing this main commitment, the treaty prohibits the development, testing, and deployment of mobile ABM components, including space-based components. But the "disarmament" proposals under consideration refer to orbital devices. Sensors which are only capable of registering missile launches are one thing—that does not constitute a violation of the treaty. But if it is a question of these devices being able to guide interceptors to missiles that have been launched, thereby performing the function of ABM radar, this would be a blatant violation of the treaty, which only permits stationary, land-based military radar.

Finally, the provisions of the ABM Treaty oblige the signatories not to share ABM components, technical descriptions, or blueprints with anyone. In my view, neither the Russian nor the English text can be interpreted as leaving a loophole for any "barter" between the sides themselves. Although it is clear that without this a "global shield" cannot be built by joint efforts.

So what is to be done? Some experts propose that we abandon the ABM Treaty and join in SDI, as they believe that the Americans are prepared to extend the principles of humanitarian aid to high technology. Others hint at the possibility of "slightly relaxing the restrictive terms" of the treaty, although they do not always understand the nature of these terms.

Although the treaty is of unlimited duration, it allows for either side to exercise its state sovereignty and withdraw. In that case, however, the signatory who believes that he has no further need of the treaty must indicate the "exceptional circumstances which have placed his highest interests in jeopardy" and forced him to abrogate his commitments. Is there convincing evidence that such circumstances now exist? If there is, the conclusion on this score must be passed by the legislative authorities empowered to ratify and dissolve treaties of this nature.

I agree that some amendments to and agreed interpretations of the treaty have been needed for a long time and that in some cases the need is becoming increasingly obvious. Only we must not forget that the ratification of agreed amendments and, accordingly, the issuing of permission for additional work within a new treaty framework and also for the budgetary financing of this work is likewise the prerogative of legislators.

In broader terms, it is not so much a question of the ABM Treaty. In many other cases as well the authors of important foreign policy documents are forgetting the well known Latin dictum: "The law may be harsh, but it is the law."

We do not have to look far for examples of the law being disregarded: More than enough are provided by the treaty-making activities of the CIS. We decide the fate of our strategic forces without giving them any clear definition; or else the definition we do give either allows absolutely everything to be included, right down to the tugboat which tows a submarine from the base, or excludes components such as aircraft carriers. We sign an agreement on the status of these forces establishing in one clause that it comes into force after ratification by all signatories, and in the next that it comes into effect from the moment of signing.

Does the distinctive nature of the "current moment" justify this kind of absurdity? Not unless the claim to be building a democratic, "rule-of-law" state (it would be interesting to know what else a democratic state could be) is a hollow declaration. Regardless of the bustle of everyday concerns, it would be worthwhile to think about the stabilizing, conservative—in the good sense of the word—role played by the law and measure political steps against it beforehand, so that official legislators do not have to give them a legal basis retroactively, as in the past. (Footnote) (Bakhtiyar Tuzmukhamedov is 36 years old, a candidate of juridical sciences, a lecturer in international law, and the author of research into the legal problems of international security and disarmament which has been published in the United States, Britain, and other countries.)

Biological Weapons Program, Violations Viewed

924P0129A Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 30 Apr 92 p 1

[Article by V. Umnov: "After 20 Years of Silence the Soviet Microbes Are Talking"]

[Text] **For a long time we could not bring ourselves to publish this material—we were restrained by our obligations to people who at one time had given a written undertaking "not to divulge" what they were doing. Today, when the Russian President's ukase "On Ensuring Compliance With International Obligations in the Field of Biological Weapons" has been promulgated, I consider these restrictions to have been lifted.**

"When the three of us were left alone," Boris Nikolayevich unexpectedly announced, "I said that I could not yet give firm guarantees of honest cooperation. Certainly this is not accepted among politicians, but I said this: 'We are still deceiving you, Mr. Bush. We promised to eliminate bacteriological weapons. But some of our experts did everything possible to prevent me from learning the truth. It was not easy, but I outfoxed them. I caught them red-handed. I found two test sites. They are inoculating tracts of land with anthrax, allowing wild animals to go there and observing them...'"

M. Zakharov, "A Visit With the President," IZVESTIYA 22 April 1992.

A year ago a letter arrived at the editorial office. Why are all the newspapers clamoring about the death of the Aral Sea, its author wrote, without mentioning as one of the possible causes the bacteriological test site in the middle of the sea? You really should go to Vozrozhdeniye Island....

Since then, without naming the location of the "facility" we have several times published precautionary materials: Such a test site does exist, and in order to make sure that it does not present any danger for us "peaceful inhabitants" today, it would not be a bad idea to take a look at it.

We sent letters containing this request to the Ministry of Defense and later to the command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces. At first they were simply not answered, then the military physicians and chemists began to assert that there was no sense in making such a trip—they were studying quite different problems on the island. On the last occasion—that was in February—we received a refusal from the "command" of the first deputy commander, Stolyarov: There is nothing for journalists to do there.

Meanwhile we had been receiving new letters and testimony.

—"During the period 1968-1970 I served on that island. I personally took part in experiments on horses, sheep and donkeys. But there were also closed barracks where civilians worked. They kept rodents in those barracks—mice, hamsters, and guinea pigs. There were also monkeys there, we used to laugh about it: A soldier cost 1 ruble and 20 kopeks a day, but a monkey cost 4 rubles 80 kopeks...."

—"Bananas for the monkeys were delivered by aircraft. They were given alcohol to drink, and they suffered with hangovers like people, but to make up for that the anthrax could not get the better of them...".

—"I am a serviceman who served on Vozrozhdeniye Island. Instead of frightening your readers with the 'secret of the century' you would do better to think about what will happen when Kazakhstan takes this facility under its control. No one here is afraid of these weapons...."

—"The island was terrible because there was no serum. They used to give injections against venomous reptiles [sic] (tarantulas, scorpions and so forth). They used to give some other injections that would numb part of the body and raise the temperature to the maximum. The officers made no secret of the fact that there was no serum. When a man went into the test zone without chemical protection he was later carried off somewhere—destination unknown. There were cases in which gas masks malfunctioned. Soldiers used to remain silent in that kind of situation mainly out of fear of the injections.

"All testing started on Komsomolsk Island, where in 1960 an evacuation took place in mere hours in connection with a shift in the wind. We were categorically forbidden to visit it, even though it could almost be reached by wading...."

Today, according to available information, the test site has essentially been closed. And the people who should go there first are, in my opinion, not journalists but civilian ecologists, epidemiologists, biologists, chemists... The Aral is drying up, and what if small insects that were unable to swim across the sea move across on dry land to the mainland? God forbid...

We have known about bacteriological weapons for a long time. As long ago as the Great Patriotic War a book entitled "Plague" by the American military man Roseberry was published in the USSR. And evidently, we were already concerned that the enemy might drop "a dozen or so kilograms of plague or cholera" on our territory from an aircraft. Biologists appeared within the structure of the Ministry of Defense, then entire institutes were set up....

Let me say immediately that there was nothing wrong in protecting ourselves against this terrible weapon. And for that it is necessary to know what you are protecting yourself against—artificially obtaining acute forms is a natural stage in this research. Military biologists found references to work in that field in the foreign literature and immediately brought it to their commanders' attention: See, there they are getting ahead of us and you begrudge the money.

In the early 1970's, we had, in fact, really fallen behind. The Lysenko sessions in 1948 and 1950 had hit our biologists below the belt...A Ministry of Defense commission concluded that we were catastrophically behind. In the West they had already started to do genetic

engineering work with DNA, and they were actively influencing the genome and obtaining altered forms of bacteria and viruses.

As a result a series of resolutions was promulgated creating a special system.

And abroad, just imagine, it was precisely at that time that they started to work actively against this kind of research. The result was the 1972 convention totally prohibiting bacteriological weapons. And we, too, nobly signed it and in 1975, ratified it.

But the system had already been started up...

So, by the nature of the work the military penetrated into the civilian, through the Main Administration for the Microbiological Industry under the USSR Council of Ministers. The creation of this industry began in the mid-1960's, and it became famous among the people for its protein and vitamin concentrate plants.

But there was something else that the people did not know.

All this was eating up enormous amounts of money and hard currency, for molecular biology and genetics are built on the use of expensive equipment and reactors that we simply did not have.

The convention had already been signed when a bacteriological center was opened in Obolensk, near Moscow (we wrote about it on 24 September 1991) and a virology center in Koltsovo near Novosibirsk. Institutes were built in Moscow—the Biological Instrument Building Institute and the Biochemical Machine Project. The Institute for Ultrapure Drugs appeared in Leningrad. Industrial test bases were opened.

Entire faculties at a number of higher educational institutions in Moscow were entirely redirected—the Moscow Higher Technical School imeni Bauman, Moscow State University, the Second Medical Institute...

Everything seemed very simple: Take a microbe, remove its DNA, slice it, splice it, implant it in another microbe—and you have a new organism.

A resolution was passed establishing a deadline. A client comes from the Arbat bearing a document where it is already written down in detail: what it should be, how it should look, what specifications it should meet, dozens of parameters. Whether you like it or not, you have to do it.

But this did not happen. It turned out that no decision by the party or government could force a microbe to alter its face. To obtain a bacterium or virus with prespecified properties is an almost hopeless business if you do not know the nature of those properties.

And the unpleasantness started. Civilian scientists working mainly inside the system tried not to be limited to purely military tasks. By the way, it is precisely these "sidelines" that today could well become the main directions in virology, vaccination and diagnostics.

But time was needed for this. And the military tasks could not permit such indulgences. The system was happy to take on military people for leading posts; they were used to carrying out orders by the deadline.

They started to bring the affair to a close, and talks leading up to this began several years ago.

Meanwhile, in Koltsovo, for example, they learned to make interferon.

Thus, 20 years after the USSR signed the Convention prohibiting bacteriological weapons it has been disclosed that we have been violating it.

Just one thing remains to set our minds at rest: if there had been no "military," then domestic microbiology would probably not exist at all. But how its potential can be usefully employed is, of course, a matter for the experts. Experts who are mainly civilians. For example, the committee set up in February under the president of Russia on convention problems relating to chemical and biological weapons.

Military

Negotiator Cited on Black Sea Fleet Division

OW0405171092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1624 GMT 4 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian delegation chief at talks with Ukraine on the Black Sea fleet and deputy Chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Yuri Yarov, who now has to report to the President and parliament on the results of the negoiations, was interviewed by IF's [INTERFAX] Yevgeniy Terekhov on return to Moscow concerning the results of the first tour of talks in Odessa.

According to him, "now a common ground has been defined at least, and the issues requiring further hard work." He said that "Russia and Ukraine agree that part of the ships will fly the Ukrainian flag, and part will be accountable to the CIS navy."

Yarov emphasized, however, that the positions of the sides differ on a number of important issues. The main difference, said he, is that the entire fleet registered in Ukrainian ports must belong to it, but Ukraine can transfer part of the fleet to the CIS navy, Russia believes that the Black Sea fleet is a strategic service and must be responsible to the CIS command, but that part of it should belong to Ukraine.

According to Yarov, Ukraine's and CIS fleets should be stationed at different bases. He also added that CIS ships will fly St. Andrew's cross.

Touching on the course of the talks, the delegation chief noted that the talks had been difficult. "At first we were taking one another's measure and let each member of the delegation have his say, because there were differences even within delegations." Dealing with the main task of the talks, "to preserve, not divide the fleet," Yarov expressed assurance that "in any case, in the future the fleet will be reunited, but it is, regrettably, a matter of time."

Yarov also reported that after the May Day celebration two Russian experts will leave for Sevastopol to monitor the observance of the bilateral moratorium on any unilateral actions adding to tension around the Black Sea Fleet. One of the experts will be St. Petersburg parliamentarian Yevgeniy Pudovkin.

The Russian delegation is neither governmental nor parliamentary, says its chief. "Now when the press is focussing on differences between parliament and government, our delegation is a good example of a close and efficient cooperation between legislature and government," emphasized he.

Yarov reported that he will be accountable to the Russian president and chairman of the Supreme Soviet, and he expressed hope that he'll be able to report on the matter for the government.

Caspian Fleet Weapons Stolen During Raid

LD0405133192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1044 GMT 4 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 4 May—An arms and property depot of the Caspian Fleet 70 kilometers from Baku was attacked by a group of several dozen armed persons. The press service of the Caspian Fleet today announced that on 1 May the criminals neutralized the sentries, communication and alarm systems, broke into several stores, and stole 36 firearms, 20 grenades, 200 kilograms of explosive, several thousand units of ammunition, and a large quantity of gas masks. No one opened fire during the incident. Despite the measures which were taken, the attackers got away. The Fleet's military procuracy is investigating and searching for the criminals.

Northern Fleet Has 2 Billion Ruble Debt

LD0105100592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1003 GMT 30 Apr 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Severomorsk—The debt to the servicemen, workers and employees of the Northern Fleet amounts to R2 billion [rubles]. The financial organs of the Northern Fleet have no cash today. To meet all the needs of the fleet several billions of roubles are needed. 30 per cent of the Fleets personnel have not been paid for March.

The situation is aggravated by the fact that the mass dismissal of seamen and NCOs is beginning now. And a seaman being dismissed must be paid between R4-12,000 depending on length of his stay at sea. And this money is needed at once because several CIS countries where the seamen had been called up from, and where they will go to after the dismissal do not accept money orders and the seamen will not be able to send money home.

The planned raising of the salaries of the workers of Russia's budgetary institutions by 80 per cent will add more difficulties to the financiers but the main thing is to provide the customers with cash roubles. As PF [POSTFACTUM] have learnt from the Northern Fleet finance department, Murmansk regional administration and the NF Command had applied to Russia's President Boris Yeltsin and the Russian Administration for assistance in order to provide the Fleet with cash. In April the Fleets airmen flew to Moscow three times to bring cash for the Fleet and the Murmansk region. But this time the Gosznak factory failed to meet the cash emission quote and as the finance department of the Fleet said, region's line to the printing press has been formed .

The situation, in my opinion, will shortly change for the worse , the chief of the Northern Fleet's Financial Service Colonel Georgiy Sukhanov told PF. Even the sum that they promise us will not save the situation in the Fleet.

Manpower, Ship Cutbacks Viewed

PM0105131392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 27 Apr 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Video report from Murmansk by V. Anuchin and A. Uchinov]

[Text] [Anuchin] Around 100,000 people of over 60 nationalities serve with the fleet today. Russians account for only 52 percent. There are a particularly large number of Ukrainians—one in four. The creation of their own armies by several republics has caused a series of problems. There have already been applications for early discharge from officers and seamen who want to serve in their own national armed forces. In the near future the fleet's personnel is to be reduced by one-third. There will be 25-30 percent fewer warships, including 10 nuclear submarines that are to be scrapped for salvage.

[Commanding Officer O.A. Yerofeyev] The Northern Fleet has very close links with the Black Sea Fleet because we receive ships from that fleet's shipbuilding yards. At a number of shipyards in Ukraine, former Ukrainian yards, in particular the Nikolayev yard, there have actually been occasions when ships which were virtually ready have been written off as scrap and sold abroad. I do not think that this is a rational use of state resources, our commonwealth's resources.

[Anuchkin] The fleet must become professional. The commanding officer has already received over 1,000 applications from fixed-term seamen requesting permission to stay on for further service. The Northern Fleet belongs to Russia. However, the St. Andrew's Flag has not been hoisted on these ships yet because there is only one factory making flags for the whole of Russia.

Chemical Weapons Destruction Method Not Decided

PM0505124092 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 1 May 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report from Saratov by I. Deryugin]

[Text] [Deryugin] Behind these gates is the central chemical depot of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, in which, inter alia, are stored 1,200 tonnes of toxic chemical agents. Since the days of the Great Patriotic War these drums have contained mustard gas and lewisite, chemical agents which affect the skin and the nervous system. The destruction of chemical weapons under the treaty with the Americans should begin no later than this year, but as of today there is no tested technology of destruction to suit completely both the ecologists and the military. Transporting chemical agents somewhere or constructing a plant to process them here? In any case making a decision is impossible without an independent ecological expert study of a particular method and in the event of a positive conclusion there has to be participation of the region in the profits, and they could be considerable. The cost of 1 kilogram of arsenic obtained from lewisite through multi-stage processing is $5,000 on the world market. If only these arsenic dollars smell good in the literal and figurative sense.

Military Intelligence Chief Interviewed

PM0105131592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Apr 92 pp 2, 4

[Interview with Colonel General Yevgeniy Timokhin, chief of the Main Intelligence Directorate and deputy chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces General Staff, by correspondent Lieutenant Colonel N. Poroskov; place, date of interview not given: "Main Intelligence Directorate: You Can See the Whole World From This Building..."—first six paragraphs are KRASNAYA ZVEZDA introduction]

[Text] A year ago the doors of the gloomy building on the Lubyanka were opened to journalists for the first time. At the time a lot was written about this and scenes were included as sensational material in television broadcasts.

Our correspondent has visited a similar, no less serious and secret organization—the General Staff Main Intelligence Directorate [GRU], codenamed "the aquarium" in the press. Obviously since the publication abroad of the book of the same name by a former GRU officer under the pseudonym of Viktor Suvorov. Or because of the abundance of glass in the building, situated on a quiet Moscow street.

It may be said without exaggeration that the threads from this building extend all over the world. The intellectual potential of our military intelligence is gathered here. Thoughtless phrases and unnecessary words are not uttered here. In this building the doors are locked even if the office's incumbent has only left for a minute. In the smoking room, if an unfamiliar person (in our case a journalist) appears, talk instantly stops, to be resumed on a neutral topic. The officers read with fluency publications in the languages of the countries which publish them. It is obvious that seniority is particularly respected here.

In the directorate I was confidentially informed of an event (not that important an event, incidentally) which should have occurred in a few days' time. The date was cited. I immediately suggested including this announcement in the interview: While the interview was being prepared, the event would take place. And I met with a look of surprise: The leakage through me even of this trivial information would jeopardize an agent.

After that the answers to my questions no longer seemed to me to be fluent or entirely sincere. Actually, I myself wrote the previous paragraph in that spirit. You can judge the tension and constant control, primarily self-control, under which the directorate officers are working if the fate and sometimes the life of a person "over there" depends on just one word from them. And without exaggeration state affairs depend on them.

What is the GRU, what tasks does it resolve? That was the topic of our correspondent's talk with Colonel General Yevgeniy Timokhin, chief of the GRU and deputy chief of the General Staff of the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

[Poroskov] Yevgeniy Leonidovich, for many people military intelligence is a closely guarded secret. Tell us about its aims as far as possible.

[Timokhin] In our country and in other countries the main aim of military intelligence is the collection, analysis, and generalization of the most diverse information on whose basis a conclusion is drawn as to the degree of the potential military danger or possible threat to the state, in this case the CIS. The military-political situation in the world is changing rapidly, and the tasks of military intelligence are changing rapidly, varying from observing the daily activity of foreign states' armed forces to focusing efforts on the most threatened operational-strategic salients.

The objects of our attention are the armed forces, hardware, weapons, and equipment of the proposed theater of military operations: the communications system, roads, airfields, rivers, canals, and throughput capability of the main transport routes. And, of course, the economy working for the foreign states' armed forces.

[Poroskov] There are methods for achieving any aim. What are they in your work?

[Timokhin] Our people are working abroad. Foreigners also supply information. Visiting exhibitions and air shows and familiarizing oneself with items in the periodical press provide a lot. In brief, there are many methods.

[Poroskov] Including recruiting agents?

[Timokhin] That too.

[Poroskov] What is the structure of military intelligence?

[Timokhin] In brief, it is an amalgam of procurement organs and processing, analytical organs. The correlation between the components changes depending on the world situation and the arrival of qualitatively new technical facilities.

In more detail, the first element in the structure is strategic or, to put it another way, agent-based special intelligence. The second is technical intelligence: radio, radiotechnical, and space intelligence. No explanations are needed here, I believe.

[Poroskov] Except for one thing: Does that include the interception of radio communications?

[Timokhin] Rather it means the constant monitoring of the airwaves on military frequencies throughout the world.

And the third element is the analysis and decryption service.

There is also operational and tactical reconnaissance: ground, air, and naval. These are the units in the districts and fleets subordinated to the relevant commanders.

[Poroskov] Like the special forces, service in which is surrounded by an aura of secrecy? What kind of subunits are there, what is their purpose? Is it right to call them subversive? Have the GRU special forces been used in "trouble spots" inside the country?

[Timokhin] The military intelligence system does indeed include special formations which the press has dubbed special forces. They are subordinate not to the GRU but to the military district commanders. They have a wide range of intelligence missions. In addition in wartime they are charged with carrying out special measures deep behind enemy lines, that is, in part acts of sabotage at the enemy's facilities and communications, the capture of the necessary people, and so forth. But the main thing is nonetheless intelligence.

The intelligence service of each military district has its own "sphere of interests" determined by the neighboring countries. As a rule a special forces group consists of three to seven men with a good knowledge of the country where they can be sent by one method or another—even by hang glider. These groups' training program includes survival in desert or swampy terrain, in cold and heat, living off the land.

And the "aura of secrecy" is explained by the fact that always and everywhere intelligence services, for understandable reasons, have not publicized their activity. Hence all the rumors and exaggerations. It has come to pass that the term special forces is applied to subunits of the internal troops, the militia, and other departments. And if the mass media speak of the use of special forces in "trouble spots," then they are absolutely unequivocally not talking about us.

[Poroskov] The demands made on people in your profession are undoubtedly high. How do you select cadres, in which educational establishments do you train them?

[Timokhin] In the majority of military academies and schools there are departments or groups for training military intelligence officers for the relevant categories of troops, services, and branches of the Armed Forces. They include the Kiev Combined Arms School, the Cherepovets Electronics School, a special faculty at the Ryazan Higher Airborne Command School, the M.V. Frunze Artillery Academy, and other academies. In the troops there are training subunits which train specialists in engineering, chemical, and artillery intelligence. Strategic military intelligence cadres are trained at the relevant faculties of a number of military academies and in specialized educational establishments which take officers who have graduated from military school or, even better, from academy.

[Poroskov] If a man is attracted by the romantic aspect of serving as a military intelligence officer and by work abroad, can he go to study at such an establishment if he wishes?

[Timokhin] We only take volunteers for tactical reconnaissance. But not for strategic reconnaissance. A request to work here is considered somehow unethical. We take a look at an officer, watch him, and only then suggest it to him. If, of course, he has the necessary qualities.

[Poroskov] What are the features of the intelligence officers' training programs?

[Timokhin] There is a quite thorough study of the equipment and weapons of foreign armies and of languages. We instill the skills of communicating with strangers, the ability to enter into contact with them, to impose one's will, if you like. How to behave in conditions of close attention from counterintelligence. The list could go on a long time.

[Poroskov] Permit me, Yevgeniy Leonidovich, to put a not entirely correct question. What is an intelligence officer to do if the fulfillment of his mission is inevitably attended with a violation of ethics and morality, if it is the only way?

[Timokhin] Take a standard situation in all intelligence services of the world—the recruitment of an agent. That is nothing other than persuading a man to betray his country. Can a basic method be called immoral? And then there is as yet no legal basis for such actions or a ban on them. The intelligence officer recruits a foreigner on the basis of his official duty, proceeding from an understanding of his responsibility for his motherland's security.

[Poroskov] Indeed, sometimes an intelligence officer has to work in a different dimension. Nonetheless, for an ordinary person some things remain beyond understanding. Or rather, a man can understand intellectually what is possible and sometimes even necessary, but he does not want to believe it. For instance, the possibility of a cipher clerk being killed by his own people if danger threatens a group or network of agents. Or the use of criminals under sentence of death as "dolls" for training the special forces, or the practice, as part of training, of recruiting staffers from our own secret institutions, with all ensuing consequences for them.

[Timokhin] Even the question of eliminating a cipher clerk or anyone else working with us abroad has never arisen once in all the history of military intelligence. The question reeks of the fantasies of Suvorov, as he calls himself, the author of the account entitled "Aquarium" ["Inside the Aquarium: The Making of a Top Soviet Spy"], does it not?

[Poroskov] You are right. To what extent do the contents of that book match up to reality? And was there actually such a person?

[Timokhin] The author has recently become horribly popular. He appears on television wearing a wig, talks frankly about his plastic surgery...

[Poroskov] Perhaps he fears the GRU will "nab" him even over there?

[Timokhin] We know where he is—he lives a few dozen miles outside London, on property belonging to the military. But the fears of "Suvorov" are unfounded. Since Stalin's death there has not even been an attempt to punish a traitor—not a single one.

The nom de plume "Suvorov" was assumed (clearly for greater secrecy) by former Major Vladimir Bogdanovich Rezun. We have retained a personal file on him, and his biographical data and service record are as follows: He was born in the Maritime Kray in 1947; he graduated from the Suvorov Military School in Tver (at that time Kalinin) and from the Kiev Higher Combined Arms Command School—cum laude; he commanded a training platoon for two years; and for one year was an officer in the the Carpathian Military District Staff Intelligence Directorate. He then underwent special training; he served for three months in the "Aquarium," and consequently knows extremely little about our work. He was sent abroad to work, and in October 1978 gave himself up to British intelligence in Switzerland.

What sort of man is he? One assessment report says that he was the youngest on the course, but was more successful than his colleagues; he collects books on military topics for his personal library; and he is rated a category two shot with the Kalashnikov assault rifle. He is married and has two children. His father is an officer in the reserve and his brother is an officer too. However...

[Poroskov] You know, when I started reading the account I was ready for the usual muckraking, but, in my opinion, the author romanticizes the profession and does a good publicity job for it.

[Timokhin] He clearly had good editors and advisers. A lot in it has been invented precisely in order to capture people's interest while maintaining outward verisimilitude. And this interest is used to instill ideas into readers: Just look at the monsters they have over there, be ready for anything. The "thirty pieces of silver" had to be earned. The bulk of what is written is lies, and episodes such as the burning alive in a furnace of a traitorous intelligence colonel for destroying papers are simply the fruit of a sick imagination.

[Poroskov] Other names can be put alongside Rezun's: Colonel Krapiva in the United States, Polyakov in India, Penkovskiy... Is there something in common in the history of their treachery: Motives, reasons?

[Timokhin] For the most part mercenary motives and greed are in play. Some of them, like Filatov, fell into a trap set by the special services. Some lived all their lives with the secret of a carefully concealed rottenness of character, some succumbed to the influence of their

wives... But there is not a single case known of defection for political reasons. The attitude toward such types is well known in all countries.

[Poroskov] There clearly is a system for safeguarding against betrayal. How are GRU officers checked for reliability?

[Timokhin] Intelligence officers tackle exceptionally important tasks and there is a need therefore to vet them from the standpoint of reliability. This is not a one-shot measure, but comprises a broad range of measures connected with the selection, training, further training, and study of people. Testing, for example, yields pretty good results. People's behavior and way of life, their views, a system of personal records on officers exists... And then an officer mostly does not work on his own... There are other methods of vetting too.

[Poroskov] Only married officers with children are sent abroad. Is this also part of the insurance policy?

[Timokhin] Of a kind.

[Poroskov] Is an intelligence officer warned of what awaits him in the event of betrayal, or is the military oath sufficient? Perhaps, given the specific nature of the service, the GRU has its own investigators, tribunal, and places where punishment is served?

[Timokhin] An unusual question, to put it mildly. But to deal with your points in order, for every serviceman the oath taken is an oath of loyalty to the homeland. Moreover, in all secret [rezhimnyy] organizations an officer pledges not to divulge secrets.

An intelligence officer, as a serviceman and citizen of the country, is wholly accountable to the law. The GRU has never had its own organs, tribunals, or punishment centers for its own officers.

[Poroskov] Does the military intelligence structure have scientific research establishments engaged in improving intelligence techniques and the equipment used by the special forces and in producing special documents—passports, certificates, identity cards, and so forth?

[Timokhin] We have such services, of course.

[Poroskov] Every organization and department has its own history. What has been the GRU's evolution since it was set up? Are there outstanding figures in its history?

[Timokhin] Our military intelligence service forms a constituent part of the Armed Forces and is one of the means of supporting their combat activity. It was founded in 1918. The central apparatus of military intelligence was then constituted by the Registration Bureau of the Military Strategy Department of the Operational Directorate of the All-Russia Main Staff and the intelligence section of the Operational Department of the People's Commissariat of Military Affairs. The Registration Bureau of the Field Staff, which was the progenitor of our Main Directorate, was set up in November of the same year. From April 1943 military intelligence had two central organs: The Main Intelligence Directorate, subordinate to the People's Commissariat of Defense, and the Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff. As events showed, the reorganization paid off.

Outstanding names familiar from the prewar and wartime period are Richard Sorge, Lev Manevich, Maks Klausen, and Branko Vukelich. More than 188,000 intelligence officers were recipients of orders and medals and 121 became Heroes of the Soviet Union. These include V. Karpov, V. Leonov, Kh. Mamsurov, and V. Shcherbina.

There were also changes in the organizational structure in the postwar period, when new kinds of intelligence work emerged, and the management system was inmproved. The GRU has borne its present title since 1953.

[Poroskov] There was a time when the role of military intelligence was performed by the Cheka [Extraordinary Commission To Combat Counterrevolution, forerunner of the KGB]. Was the subsequent split into two autonomous organizations evidence of a desire to create competition in information gathering and thereby enhance the effectiveness of the work? Or was this done so that neither powerful organization—the GRU or the KGB—could elevate itself above state and party structures? Do the interests of the external intelligence-gathering service and your organization cut across each other in places?

[Timokhin] Why did the Cheka carry out functions which did not properly belong to it? It was a difficult time, state institutions were being undermined... The formation of autonomous state security and military intelligence services was dictated by the need to expand the potential for acquiring intelligence data for the leadership to make political and military strategy decisions. There is a difference in the two latter ideas. Hence the difference in the nature of the work.

The practice of separating functions exists in all the leading states of the world. In the United States the CIA, the FBI, and the intelligence organs of the State Department and other departments function alongside the Defense Intelligence Agency and the corresponding services of the branches of the Armed Forces. There is a whole string of such examples and parallels for other countries.

The interests of the external intelligence-gathering service and the GRU cannot cut across each other, because, while they pursue a single goal—that of safeguarding state security—they tackle different tasks; it is more a case of their complementing each other.

[Poroskov] In the recent past the CPSU Central Committee Administrative Organs Department was in charge of the work of your directorate and state security likewise. Is there someone in charge now?

[Timokhin] The tasks, the basic activity, the organizational structure, and the staff numbers of the directorate used to be determined by the Ministry of Defense and

the government of the country. Now, during the period of reorganization of the Armed Forces, this is being done by the CIS Joint Armed Forces Main Command. On the basis, naturally, of the agreements among the Commonwealth states and the statute on the Main Command. After the creation of the Russian Defense Ministry, the normative acts on the functioning of the GRU will probably be reworked. I hope that a law on the military intelligence service will be passed which lays down the legal basis of intelligence activity in the interests of national security and strengthening defense potential.

[Poroskov] But what if the CIS were—and this, alas, cannot be precluded—to disappear?

[Timokhin] Today we have a unified, finely tuned intelligence system which corresponds to its tasks. If this is to be preserved everything should come "under Russia," under its jurisdiction.

[Poroskov] But suppose some of its resources go to Ukraine?

[Timokhin] The whole system would collapse as a result, and the torn-off part going to the former republic would itself yield nothing. Everything would be lost. The GRU maintained as an integrated whole, however, could supply the sovereign states with information and train specialists for them.

[Poroskov] In other words, military intelligence work in the former republics of the USSR is not planned?

[Timokhin] Not today.

[Poroskov] Whom today does the directorate supply with information, what form does it take, and how often? What is the nature of the information?

[Timokhin] A host of reports from every part of the country and the world are collected in the directorate. People work around the clock—whether this the technical or strategic intelligence service or the central apparatus. Information is deciphered and analyzed here, in the building. At 0700 hours or just after a pile of reports which have had a first read-through is placed on my desk. I analyze them, forward the most important ones, and in a number of cases deliver a personal report to the commander in chief and the chief of the General Staff. They, in turn, report to the president and the government. Moreover, intelligence information is conveyed to staffs, troops, fleets, and interested departments—all in accordance with established procedure.

The nature of the information, given the GRU's role, is basically concerned with military problems. The military intelligence service, like any other intelligence service, makes use of all means, channels, and resources available to it for the purpose of information gathering.

[Poroskov] Can it be claimed that the directorate's work produces economic results? And if so, to what extent does it pay for itself?

[Timokhin] This is very difficult to calculate, but I can say with full justification that we are not freeloaders sponging on the state. Let's take a particular situation: A quest is under way to find an original new solution in the development of weapons, or means of communication or control, or something else. Research and experimental design work is being conducted as a rule in several areas (usually between three and five) by various companies and scientific research institutes. All of them require substantial funding. Meanwhile our intelligence officers have obtained a sample, that is, the end result. You work out how much that is worth.

[Poroskov] And how is the GRU funded today? Have its appropriations been cut, just like everyone else's?

[Timokhin] For the first quarter of this year the directorate received the minimum funding necessary. Unfortunately, this does not sufficiently cover existing needs.

[Poroskov] What may be the consequences of this shortage of funds?

[Timokhin] You just have to reverse the example which I have just cited. Cuts in funding lead to a reduction in the volume of information supplied to the military department and the government. In my opinion, there is no need to elaborate.

[Poroskov] At the Sixth Congress Russian People's Deputy Cosmonaut V. Sevastyanov talked with alarm about direct U.S. interference—essentially blatant diktat—in the affairs of "Glavkosmos" [Main Administration for the Development and Use of Space Technology for the National Economy and Scientific Research]. It can be gathered from the press that this organization is not the only one on which people from outside are trying to impose their will. Are you aware of any such attempts?

[Timokhin] It is true that lately demands to curtail the activities of our military intelligence abroad have surfaced in the foreign mass media and even in the statements of individual officials. I must emphasize that such ultimatums are futile.

[Poroskov] Do you have information about the activities of foreign military intelligence in our country?

[Timokhin] To the extent to which this is necessary to safeguard the work of both the directorate and our individual staffers.

[Poroskov] Do you receive this information from your counterintelligence?

[Timokhin] Counterintelligence is not part of the GRU's sphere of competence. In my opinion, intelligence and its opposite should not be placed under one roof and should not be run on the same basis. But then every intelligence agent is to some extent also a counterintelligence agent. If only to safeguard his own security.

[Poroskov] Is monitoring compliance with arms reduction agreements part of your duties?

[Timokhin] Within the framework of its competence, the GRU takes part in the work of the National Center for Reducing the Nuclear Danger. This concerns, for example, monitoring the observance by the United States of the bilateral Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms and the intermediate-range and shorter-range missile treaty, which has now been implemented. By means of national technical means of verification—that is, space apparatus and radioelectronic intelligence, among other things. Use of them was envisaged by the contracting parties.

The directorate takes part in expert assessments of the composition and state of strategic offensive arms and the content of initiatives and proposals put forward by the partners in the talks in this sphere and monitors implementation of the ABM Treaty by the U.S. side. The agreements are being complied with, disarmament is a reliably verified process.

[Poroskov] Thank you for your account of what the GRU is doing at present. I am not asking you about future plans.

[Timokhin] You are right. Clearly, you have sensed the atmosphere which reigns in our building.

Commonwealth

Foreign Ministers Postpone Tashkent Meeting

OW0505100392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0951 GMT 5 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to well-informed sources in the Russian Foreign Ministry, the session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Commonwealth scheduled for Friday [8 May] will be held in Tashkent on Sunday [10 May]. The initiative of changing the time and date belongs to Uzbekistan where the Commonwealth summit is due on May 15. According to sources in the Russian Foreign Ministry, Andrey Kozyrev supported the suggestion.

The meeting is expected to focus primarily on the membership of CIS countries in international nuclear non-proliferation and human rights agreements.

Direction of Central Asian Republics Viewed

LD0305181192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1410 GMT 3 May 92

[Commentary by Vitaliy Gurov]

[Text] With the breakup of the Soviet Union the question which way is likely to be taken by Kazakhstan and the four Central Asian republics, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan is far from being idle. Commentary is by Vitaliy Gurov and he writes the following:

Out of a total of 50 million people living in the region 50 million claim preaching Islam, so the answer to this question can largely shape the future of those republics, including next door Kazakhstan which is close to the four in religion, lifestyle and ethnically. With a territory stretching from the Urals in the west down to Siberia in the east, Kazakhstan is by far the largest, although ethnic Kazakhs make up just about half of the population. Russian and Ukrainian speaking communities come next in size.

Economic backwardness caused by the extensive development of mineral resources, environmental troubles and ethnic conflicts are the three main factors inherent in one way or another to all five republics. They can largely determine the choice of partners for economic cooperation and foreign trade. Iran, China and India are all turning their eyes to the region, and so is Turkey whose prime minister, Mr. Suleyman Demirel, ended a tour of the Islamic belt of the Commonwealth of Independent States last month. Speaking before the flight from Ankara airport, Mr. Demirel said the newly gained independence by those five countries was the embodiment of Turkey's long cherished dream and that his country was ready to do its best to help them embrace political and economic reform. He said Turkey was ready to take on political responsibility for regional affairs from the Adriatic coast down to the Chinese borders.

This appears to be in tune with a casual remark by the Uzbek president, Mr. Islam Karimov, while visiting Turkey. He said the time could come when the legislatures of the two countries might find themselves sitting in the same assembly hall. Come what may, Turkey's influence on the region is very tangible, but there is little doubt that its strong rival, Iran, might try to seek a reversal, although its Islamic fundamentalism appears to be putting off most of the Central Asian republics, especially Kazakhstan.

It is early days yet to say what sort of impact can be made by one other regional country, Afghanistan, particularly on its northern neighbor Tajikistan, with which it shares much in common, including the language. However, the region is closely integrated with Russia, Ukraine, Byelarus and other Commonwealth states, as well as with the Baltic republics and Georgia, but these links are most likely to transform into something different from what they are now. Nonetheless, the region will no doubt stick to the secularism in market relations, or, in other words, to the Turkish pattern of development and with an eye to the West. But it's also to be hoped that the four republics and Kazakhstan will continue to widen their contacts within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Soyuz Member Calls For New Union

LD0305223892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1325 GMT 3 May 92

[Interview with Sazhi Umalatova, former USSR people's deputy and member of the Soyuz group, by correspondents Lyudmila Telen of MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI

and Valeriy Vyzhutovich of IZVESTIYA; place and date not given; from the "Political Kitchen" program—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Telen] Your Soyuz group of people's deputies are calling for a return to the past. What do you cherish about the past?

[Umalatova] You should not ask me what I cherish about the past or the present. Instead, we should make a realistic assessment of what we have gained and what we have lost from the disintegration of the state.

[Telen] What have we lost?

[Umalatova] What have we gained as a result of having to beg for assistance from the entire world? We now stand on the brink of losing not just our liberty but even the thing we cherish most, our motherland. [passage omitted] I just cannot live in a country which has been humiliated, insulted and torn apart, which has to beg favors from the rest of the world. I feel insulted.

[Telen] Do you think things were better before 1985?

[Umalatova] Yes, that was my impression. At least I knew that I lived in a country which was not just respected, but also feared to some extent. I do not want to be feared, but I want to be respected. [passage omitted]

I was not very happy about the reaction when I called for Gorbachev's resignation—you remember the occasion. Poltoranin said that for some reason all women are at war with men. They are always trying to pin something on me. He said that Lukyanov put me up to it.

[Telen] To be honest, many people did think that somebody put you up to it.

[Umalatova] If there was one man in the Soviet Union who could provoke me into doing something like that, I would fall at his feet. But there was not a single one, and that includes Lukyanov. If you remember, I said that I was provoked by [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

I do not agree with what you say about the Union. The Union still exists. The USSR Constitution still exists. The leaders of the three republics who proclaimed the death of the Soviet Union forgot that the USSR Constitution can only be declared invalid by the Congress of USSR People's Deputies. The Congress of USSR People's Deputies has not declared the constitution invalid. The USSR People's Deputies have not had their mandates withdrawn by the electorate. Following the conspiracy hatched in the Belovezhskaya Pushcha—I cannot call it anything else—Russian deputies adopted a decision suspending the mandates of people's deputies. Some of them—I do not say all of them—some of them were motivated by jealousy. But I regard this as illegal.

[Telen] You may regard it as illegal, but such are realities. Do you really think that the Congress of USSR People's Deputies can exercise its powers in the present situation?

[Vyzhutovich] Is the old constitution really more of a reality to you than the life we are living now?

[Umalatova] The whole problem is that there has always been great reluctance in our country to obey the law and serve the people. Service to the powers that be seems to be what matters. [passage omitted]

[Telen] Do you regret being so critical of Gorbachev? After all, your relations with the new authorities, the ones who came to power after Gorbachev, are turning out to be even worse.

[Umalatova] I could never get along with people—whether in authority or not—who work against their own nation, against their own country. I do not regret being so critical of Gorbachev, as you put it. What I do regret is the fact that the deputies did not dare, did not have the guts to get rid of that man, to remove him from state office before it was too late.

[Telen] Whom would you like to see in charge?

[Umalatova] I am always amazed when people ask me whom I would prefer to see in power, as though such a thing was impossible, as though there was no alternative. Are you really suggesting that we cannot find replacements for people who are destroying the state? Anybody from industry would do, any works director who knows what life is like for the people could do the job. These people would not be any worse than Yeltsin and Gorbachev. Such people would never betray their people or country.

[Telen] Do you see anybody among the top-ranking politicians who fits the bill?

[Umalatova] If you are talking about top-ranking politicians, I would single out Ryzhkov. Unfortunately, Ryzhkov is too decent a politician. He lacks the aggressive qualities and so on that are needed. It would be nice to have a person who is honest, intelligent, moral and competent. It would be very nice.

[Vyzhutovich] Are there such people among your associates?

[Telen] There are many people of this sort among my associates. Of course there are. There are very many of them in our country. [passage omitted]

[Vyzhutovich] If it is not a secret, could you enlighten us on the work of the presidium which you head? What can we expect from your second congress?

[Umalatova] I have already told you, and will tell you again, that the aim of our presidium is to restore legality. All we have done over these last seven years is destroy ourselves. At long last we must unite and start building. We should not talk about who is stronger and who is

weaker, who has the most sovereignty, who has the most oil, the most gas. Everybody used to say that the center is fleecing us.

The center vanished long ago, but is life any better for the republics? All right, they have gained their sovereignty. To be sovereign implies the ability to pursue one's own domestic and foreign policy, without being dependent on anybody. Which of our supposedly sovereign states can claim to be able to do this? None of them. All of them are dependent—on the rest of the world, on each other. The weaker are dependent on the stronger. Taken together they are all dependent on international, transnational capital. What is this, freedom, sovereignty? I would not want to have sovereignty of this sort if I was head of state. Therefore, I repeat—restoration of the old Union is out of the question. We know there can be no return to that. What we are striving for is a union of peoples. The state is merely a superstructure.

[Vyzhutovich] On what basis would you create this Union?

[Umalatova] A confederal basis.

[Vyzhutovich] What practical steps are you taking? What are you doing now?

[Umalatova] We are working toward this now. If we do not do this now, if we do not unite, it will be done by our children, by the people. If we do it today, we can unite with the least possible bloodshed and start building, as I have already said. But if we wait till tomorrow, we could ignite a civil war in the rush to break up the army, to grab a share of territory or borders. Therefore, our objective, in wanting to unite people, to unite our country, is to create some kind of coordinating body or nucleus around which all the republics and all the peoples could unite, irrespective of whether they are autonomous entities, oblasts, krays, okrugs or Union republics, on an equitable and mutually beneficial basis.

[Telen] Something like the previous Union treaty, based on Russian unity?

[Umalatova] It could be a Union treaty. Or the republics could simply unite on a political or economic basis. We have to find a solution to this problem, especially as this is what the people want. I sense this. I hold many meetings. I travel about. The people cherish this idea. [passage omitted]

Baltics

Northwest Commander Disputes Baltic Claims

LD0405002792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 3 May 92

[Text] Colonel General Valeriy Mironov, the commander of the northwest group of troops, disputes claims that the presence of Russian troops on the Baltic states' territory is a destabilizing factor, the Russian Information and Commercial Agency [Rossiyskoye Informatsionnoye Kommercheskoye Agentstvo] reports.

Mironov declared that there are many examples in the world of a foreign army being present on the territory of a sovereign state, and this is not regarded as destabilization. According to the commander, at present there are about 120,000 servicemen, with equipment and food stocks, on the territory of the Baltic republics.

Valeriy Mironov considers that the Latvian side, in particular, while calling for a more rapid withdrawal of troops, is impeding this withdrawal. The Latvian customs department is restricting the amount of personal property that officers are allowed to take out.

Baltic Delegations Discuss Russian Withdrawal

LD0205181292 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0430 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Addressing the seminar entitled Stability and Security in the Baltic Region, the delegations of the three Baltic states recognized the soonest possible determination of the schedule and deadline for the withdrawal of the Russian Army as the most important condition for guaranteeing that security. The representatives of Lithuania and Estonia think that the Russian Army must leave the territory of these states by the end of 1992.

In addition, Lithuania has resolved to hold a referendum on this question. As we have already reported, Latvia intends to demand in its talks with Russia the withdrawal of the troops from Riga by October 1992 and from the rest of Latvian territory by the end of 1993. The Lithuanian representative at this seminar emphasized that the Russian Army is conducting unsanctioned movements on the territory of Lithuania, is disrupting the guarding of Lithuania's borders by not allowing Lithuanian representatives to inspect the territory of the army units, nor has it provided official information about the composition and armaments of the troops that are located on Lithuanian territory.

The chairman of the Estonian Supreme Council's Foreign Affairs Commission, Indrek Toome, reported that at the moment Russian troops are still occupying 80,000 hectares of Estonian territory, and its composition is from 25-27,000 men. The value of the arms and army property seized in 1940 from Estonia by the Soviet Army would today be about $300 million. Indrek Toome emphasized that Estonia will (?itself take care of providing) the defense of its country; (?therefore) we are ready to take part in international structures that will guarantee such security.

The commander of the Northwestern Military Group, Colonel-General Valeriy Mironov, did not state any specific deadlines for the withdrawal of the troops, emphasizing that on the Baltic states' side there was a perceptible striving to unilaterally make political capital without regard for the interests of the other side, namely

Russia. Mironov spoke of how all the army property is being declared the property of the Baltic states. For example, there had been demands, quote, for huge numbers of weapons that were not even at the disposal of the Northwestern Military Group. Commander Valeriy Mironov noted that for the removal of the army officers alone from the Baltic states, more than 32,000 apartments would need to be built.

Media

ITAR-TASS Carries 5 May PRAVDA Review

LD0505050592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0506 GMT 5 May

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—By ITAR-TASS: The well-known daily newspaper PRAVDA is celebrating its 80-th birthday on Tuesday [5 May]. The newspaper announced that its Tuesday issue came out due to a support fund which was organised on the basis of its readers' contributions and is now amounting to 2,300,000 roubles. PRAVDA publishes congratulations received from Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, chairman of Ukrainian Academy of Sciences Boris Paton and editor-in-chief of NEUES DEUTSCHLAND Wolfgang Spickermann. "PRAVDA is a part of our history, Nazarbayev wrote, it is still difficult for us to get used to openness and democracy. It is difficult even for the present power which calls itself a democracy to accept opposition of the press. At the same time it is hard to oppose the ruling circles tactfully and objectively, but this has to be done." Nazarbayev wished PRAVDA to find its own face in the new circumstances.

PRAVDA denied allegations that nobody had recalled about the newspaper abroad and published congratulations from Chinese RENMIN RIBAO's editor-in-chief Shao Huaze, from the CHINA DAILY editorial board, from Chairman of the European Parliament Egon Klepsch, editor-in-chief of the Egyptian newspaper AL-AHALI LUTFI WAKID, from the Canadian committee of Communists' supporters. Congratulations from Russia and some former Soviet republics are published as well. PRAVDA reminded its readers that such figures as former Soviet Premier Nikolay Ryzhkov and former Communist Politburo member Yegor Ligachev attended the PRAVDA festive celebrations in the Gorkiy Park on Saturday.

PRAVDA carries an interview with Aleksander Rutskoy on the eve of his departure from Egypt to Moscow. Rutskoy said he believes the present-day crisis in Russia will not last long. He also said that some democratic leaders mixed democracy with dictatorship when they closed PRAVDA recently. "A politician must transform reality but not his views," Rutskoy said, referring to the incident.

PRAVDA informed its readers that Russian constitutional court will soon decide whether President Boris Yeltsin's decrees, which prohibited the Communist Party and allowed to confiscate Communist Party's property, were constitutional.

PRAVDA gave coverage to such international events as Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk's visit to Turkey, a military coup in Sierra Leone and about situation in Yugoslavia. Reports from Afghanistan were published under the heading "A War After the War."

International Affairs

Japanese Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Talks Start To 'Bear Fruit'

LD0405143792 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 4 May 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The talks between the foreign ministers of Russia and Japan are starting to bear fruit. While acknowledging that the line of nonseparation of politics and economics exists, Michio Watanabe noted that Japan believes it may be possible to give Russia financial assistance even before a peace treaty is signed, given the grave condition of our economy.

Japan also acknowledges that the demand for immediate compliance with the provisions of the 1956 declaration is impossible because of the complex political situation in Russia. It does, however, look as though it is expecting a guarantee in principle that will be followed in the future.

New points have emerged in Russia's position. Our country has proposed the signing of a political declaration on the principles of two-way political relations, as well as a protocol to rule out undesirable incidents on the Russian-Japanese border. Today the two sides actually will be discussing the possibility of signing such documents.

Territorial Issues Discussed

LD0405170592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1631 GMT 4 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Moscow May 4 TASS—Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy met visiting Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe in Moscow today to discuss Russian-Japanese relations and their future.

During the talks, the sides admitted that relations between Russia and Japan could be improved, a Rutskoy aide told ITAR-TASS.

Bilateral relations, however, will be improved gradually, rather than with a breakthrough, the sides said.

Aleksandr Rutskoy called for a search for mutually-acceptable solutions for the territorial problem on the basis of the 1956 declaration, the aide said.

Rutskoy made several proposals in this regard, prompting considerable interest from the Japanese side. Some of them could be a subject of further discussion, the Japanese believe.

Meets With Yeltsin

LD0405154892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1505 GMT 4 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Vasiliy Titov and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 4 May—Russian President Boris Yeltsin today received Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe in the Kremlin. The Japanese foreign minister is in Moscow on an official visit. During their conversation, which lasted more than an hour, the two sides exchanged opinions on a wide range of issues concerning bilateral relations and discussed progress in the drafting of a peace treaty between Russia and Japan. Considerable attention was also devoted to preparations for Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan.

Yeltsin To Visit Japan in Sep

LD0505073892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] The visit to Russia by Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe ends today. He held two rounds of talks in Moscow with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and was received by President Boris Yeltsin and Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy. As ITAR-TASS reported, during his meeting with Watanabe, Boris Yeltsin confirmed his intention of making an official visit to Japan in mid-September.

During the conversation they exchanged views on a wide range of issues concerning relations between the two countries. They discussed progress in drawing up a peace treaty between Russia and Japan. In this respect, the Russian president stressed that Russia viewed Japan as a new partner with which it intended to develop good-neighborly relations. In the words of a spokesman for the Japanese delegation, Boris Yeltsin advocated reducing the timeframe for implementation of the phased plan for dealing with territorial issues between Russia and Japan.

Draft Peace Treaty for Yeltsin Visit

OW0505125992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1234 GMT 5 May 92

[From "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's and Japan's working groups have been instructed to draft a peace treaty between the two countries by next autumn, when Boris Yeltsin pays an official visit to Tokyo. This is one of the results of the Moscow talks between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev an his Japanese counterpart Michio Watanabe. During the Japanese foreign minister's meeting with Boris Yeltsin, the date of Yeltsin's visit was fixed—September 14 and 15.

According to sources in the Japanese delegation, speaking about his five-stage plan for resolving the

territorial problem, Boris Yeltsin said that its first two provisions have been fulfilled already. These provisions envisage the official recognition of the territorial problem and the demilitarization of the Kuril Islands. Now the time has come to accelerate the fulfillment of the rest of the provisions, said the Russian president.

"Japan views this statement as recognition of the need to take a political decision," said the Japanese source.

Aleksandr Rutskoy, who also met with Michio Watanabe on Monday [4 May], emphasized that any territorial change in the Far East may cause a negative reaction of the Russian public. The Russian vice-president believes that such resistance "is being instigated by the party bureaucrats," the Japanese source pointed out.

Russia and Japan stem from the belief [as received] that in order to resolve the territorial problem, the public should be properly informed of the way matters stand. Given this, the two sides reached an agreement on publishing an inter-governmental booklet on the problem of "Northern Territories".

Watanabe News Conference

OW0505093392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0919 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Moscow, May 5 KYODO—Russian President Boris Yeltsin said that Russia will complete withdrawing its troops from the Russia-held disputed islands off Hokkaido within "a year or two," Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe disclosed Tuesday [5 May].

Yeltsin made the remark in a meeting with Watanabe on Monday, the Japanese foreign minister told a news conference.

The Russian president had earlier told Watanabe that Russia will withdraw all troops except for border patrols from the four disputed islands—Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan and the Habomai Islets.

The four islands were seized by troops of the former Soviet Union during the closing days of World War II. Japan's Defense Agency believes Russia currently has some 7,000 troops on the isles.

Demilitarization of the four islands is the third stage of Yeltsin's earlier proposed five-stage plan designed to settle the longstanding territorial dispute.

The plan called for an acknowledgement of the territorial issue by the Russians within two to three years, a conversion of the islands to free trade zones in three to five years, the islands' demilitarization in five to seven years, conclusion of a peace treaty in 15 to 20 years, and overall resolution of the dispute by the next generation.

Japanese officials had said after Monday's Yeltsin-Watanabe meeting that the Russian president expressed readiness to speed up his plan in order to bring the matter to a successful conclusion.

Watanabe also told reporters he is likely to meet again with Yeltsin after the Munich summit of seven industrialized countries in July, prior to the Russian president's planned September visit to Japan.

Yeltsin is scheduled to hold talks with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on September 14 and 15.

The Japanese foreign minister said negotiations on the territorial dispute will not progress "immediately," citing domestic problems in Russia. But he said there is some movement in the negotiations and added that Tokyo will continue the talks "with patience and hope."

"What is important is that both sides compromise. It is dangerous to be too hasty...," Watanabe said.

Watanabe also said he felt "great expectations" directed towards Japan from former Soviet republics in Central Asia when he visited Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan prior to his visit to Moscow.

Japan plans to open embassies as early as possible in a few member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) besides Russia, he said.

Japan To Contribute to Atomic Research Center

LD0105203892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0345 GMT 28 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Kuchko]

[Text] Tokyo, 28 Apr—Japan will provide $20 billion for the development in Russia of an international scientific and technical center to research and develop peaceful uses of atomic energy. The Japanese Government made this decision on 27 April. The idea of a major scientific center was proposed by the United States, Germany, and Russia at the beginning of this year with the aim of expanding international cooperation in atomic energy and preventing the "brain drain" of nuclear scientists from the former Soviet Union, above all to certain developing countries aspiring to create their own nuclear weapons. The United States and the EC have already decided to provide $25 million for these purposes. The international scientific and technical center, which is expected to open this summer outside Moscow, will be run jointly by Russia, the United States, the EC, and Japan.

Japanese TV Visits Submarines in Vladivostok

OW0405122692

[Editorial Report] Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese at 1200 GMT on 1 May, within the "NHK News 21" program, broadcasts a nine-minute report on an NHK camera crew's visit to a Russian submarine in Vladivostok.

Newscaster Tadashi Sonoda opens the report by noting: "The former Soviet Navy's Pacific submarine fleet has been said to be the greatest threat to Japan's defense of

its sea lanes. But a recent visit by NHK revealed that the scale of the submarine contingent in Vladivostok has been reduced substantially." The newscaster does not indicate when NHK visited the submarine.

Sonoda notes that the port had been closed to foreigners until the collapse of the former Soviet Union, saying: "This is the first time that the submarine base in Vladivostok has been opened to the media." He then introduces Kensuke Ebata, guest military commentator and a member of the NHK team visiting Vladivostok, and asks: "How many submarines were thought to have been in Vladivostok initially?"

Ebata replies: "There were no precise numbers available on those in Vladivostok itself, but the Pacific Fleet was thought to have boasted 130 submarines at its peak. The NHK team asked about the number, and the Russians said they still have 110 submarines, including nuclear submarines, in the Pacific Fleet. In the past, more than half of these submarines were said to have been assigned to Vladivostok."

Video cuts to an aerial view of the Vladivostok port, first showing a large bay area where larger vessels are docked, then a smaller bay area where submarines are seen.

Ebata explains: "This is a bird's-eye view of Vladivostok. This [Kinkaku] bay is generally used as a commercial as well as a military port, and the submarine base is further in, in a small area. This is, in fact, an extension of the bay. Here is an overall view of that section. This area has been completely off-limits, and no foreign vessels have so far been allowed to enter. Normally, a submarine base is off-limits, even in Western nations. In that sense, our being allowed in was exceptional. Besides, even though we can see 11 of the submarines here, only two are operational—those brighter in color. The others are rusted and in no condition for operations."

As Ebata speaks, video cuts to closer views of the submarines, shot from a dock. A caption explains that the mothballed submarines are from the Foxtrot class.

Sonoda says to Ebata: "It is said that this is the first time that a submarine has been shown to the media. What type of submarine was the one you saw?" Video then cuts to show Ebata boarding a submarine, escorted by some Russian officials. Ebata replies: "The one I was shown was a new submarine of the former Soviet Union which the West calls Kilo class. This is an attack submarine powered by conventional means. This one was relatively new, only two years old."

Video shows Ebata entering the submarine and operating a periscope. He continues describing the vessel: "The exterior was a Whiskey-type shape, built to 1980's standards, and was in excellent condition. But I was surprised to find the interior to be at 1960's Western levels. Take this periscope, for example. While Western vessels now use ultraviolet rays and television monitors to conduct searches, this periscope is the same as those used during World War II."

Ebata continues to demonstrate and explain certain points, suggesting that the submarine is not so sophisticated as expected. After hearing Ebata's explanation, Sonoda asks: "Does this mean that the capabilities of the former Soviet Union's submarines were not so high as Western nations thought?" Ebata replies: "Yes. At the same time, I was able to see that there had been a major strategic change."

He continues: "Look at this picture. This is a rescue submarine which Western countries call an India class. It carries two small vessels on its back. This submarine was thought to have been in use until last year. But our visit revealed that this type of submarine has not been used for the past three... [pauses] at least three years. The small vessels borne by such submarines were found in a junkyard."

Video shows small vessels piled up in a junk heap and vessels abandoned at the port.

Next follows an interview with a uniformed officer identified by caption as Ryzhkov, chief public relations officer of the Pacific Fleet. Ryzhkov speaks in Russian; Japanese translation is provided by subtitles. He says: "Our basic strategy is defensive. Our vessels no longer patrol the Indian Ocean. We are only responsible for marine territories off the Russian coast. The number of patrols has also decreased."

Then follow scenes of the port of Vladivostok. Sonoda asks Ebata if he has seen any nuclear-powered submarines. Ebata replies: "We have also learned, if we can believe the Pacific Fleet's official statement, that all nuclear submarines are stationed at Petropavlovsk Base on the Kamchatka Peninsula. The statement said that not one nuclear submarine was in Vladivostok. We did not see any nuclear vessels there."

Video returns to the interview with public relations officer Ryzhkov. When asked about the operating status of missile-equipped nuclear submarines, Ryzkhov replies: "Some are on patrol." Asked if all these subs are stationed at the base at Petropavlovsk, he replies: "Yes, as you know, they are all at Petropavlovsk."

Japanese Sect Given Airtime on Moscow Radio

PM0305134392 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1 May 92 p 1

[Report by correspondent N. Tsvetkov: "Moscow Airtime, Japanese Opium"]

[Text] Tokyo—Omu Shinrike, a primitive Buddhist sect operating on the islands of Japan—as it is described by religious specialists—have now been broadcasting on the Moscow airwaves for almost a month. Crime specialists and laywers have not as yet formally determined the nature of this sect, but they are frequently forced to investigate the circumstances of new disciples being recruited to sects, particularly young people who have barely come of age.

Japan's attitude toward Omu Shinrike is more than suspicious. In the last parliamentary elections, voters "passed over" all its candidates without exception, including the "founding fathers."

The authorities are also keeping their distance. They would ban it if they could [zapreshchat ne zapreshchayut], but in a democratic society any anomaly is allowed to exist provided the law is not broken. But officials will not speak seriously of making any concessions to a particular sect.

It proved easier—and evidently cheaper—to settle the problem far from Japanese shores. Our radio colleagues seemed as surprised as their Japanese listeners, moreover. The decision to give the sect two hours' airtime each week was adopted somewhere within the Russian Ministry of Communications.

How Omu Shinrike got access to the Russian Government is a matter of great interest to the Japanese. There have already been venomous articles about it.

Free Economic Zone on Tumen River Proposed

LD3004201592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1855 GMT 30 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Fedoruk]

[Text] Beijing April 30 TASS—The Russian Federation is interested in creating a free economic zone in the area of the Tumen River, Andrey Zagumennov, representative of the administration of the Maritime Territory, told ITAR-TASS. He headed a Russian delegation to an international conference in Beijing to discuss a plan for the development of the Tumen River Basin worked out by the United Nations Development Programme, UNDP. Official representatives of China, Mongolia, North Korea and South Korea also participated in the meeting that ended on Thursday [29 April].

According to the plan, a free economic zone at the junction of frontiers of Russia, China and North Korea where the Tumen River is flowing should become something comparable to Hong Kong, Zagumennov said. UNDP experts believe this plan should suit international investors and international financial organisations.

Russia's interest in this project lies in strengthening its commercial and economic ties with neighbouring Asian countries. The development of the Far East is impossible without this. It developed historically, using international cooperation and division of labour.

The project is extremely complicated for it involves combining parts of territories of three countries in a definite way, the Russian representative said. He believes that Russia should not lose the advantage that can be received from this. According to preliminary estimates, it will take about 18 months to work out the plan for the Tumen free economic zone. UNDP finances the project, allocating 3.5 million dollars for the purpose.

PRC Spokesman Denies Claims on Mongolia

PM3004174692 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 May 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Aleksey Portanskiy: "China Has No Territorial Claims on Mongolia"]

[Text] According to a REUTER report from Ulaanbaatar, a secret circular has been disseminated in China, allegedly claiming that independent Mongolia and Buryatia should be regarded as part of Chinese territory.

The purpose of the document's appearance, the report makes clear, is to organize opposition to those who advocate the secession from China of Inner Mongolia, which, as is well known, is part of the PRC. According to the REUTER story, the circular contains historical references testifying that in the third century BC the whole of Mongolia was part of China. The text contains criticism of the United States and other Western circles, and also of Japanese scholars, for encouraging separatist elements in China that seek the unification, in the future, of present-day Mongolia with Inner Mongolia and Buryatia. At the same time, according to the document, China does not intend to seek the realization of its own historical territorial claims.

IZVESTIYA's correspondent contacted the PRC Embassy in Moscow to obtain clarification of the REUTER report. A spokesman for the diplomatic mission stated that the embassy knows nothing about the existence of such a circular in Beijing. China's recognition of Mongolia's independence is confirmed in the agreement signed in 1960 by PRC Premier Zhou Enlai and the then chairman of the Mongolian People's Great Hural Presidium, Yu. Tsedenbal. Beijing has not changed its policy toward its northern neighbor since that time. Good interstate relations exist between the two countries. As for Mongolia's belonging to China in the past, that is an established historical fact, but it does not change the nature of present-day relations between the two states.

According to the Chinese diplomat, reports like the one transmitted by REUTER should be treated with great caution.

XINHUA on Conclusion of Border Talks

LD0205081292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0756 GMT 2 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Fedoruk]

[Text] Beijing May 2 TASS—The third round of talks between Russian and Chinese experts on demarcation of the eastern section of the Chinese-Russian border was held from April 16 to May 2, the XINHUA news agency reported on Saturday [2 May].

Both sides, the news agency says with reference to offical circles of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, have agreed to

hold the first meeting of the Joint Commission on Border Demarcation in Moscow in June or July of 1992.

Deputy Prime Minister Arrives in Beijing

LD0305172392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1549 GMT 3 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Fedoruk]

[Text] Beijing May 3 TASS—Russian deputy prime minister, Minister of Labour and Employment Aleksandr Shokhin arrived here on Sunday [3 May] for a two-day official visit. The visit is in the framework of a series of Russian top officials' trips to China on the eve of President Boris Yeltsin's tour of the country scheduled for this autumn, Shokhin told TASS.

According to Shokhin, his prime objective will be to realise the potential of the bilateral cooperation by signing important agreements. Shokhin, who was recently appointed chairman of Russo-Chinese Bilateral Committee, said his task is to devise the necessary steps which will help promote trade, economic and scientific ties between the two countries. Exchange of labour force between Russia and China will also be discussed, Shokhin said. Shokhin will leave Beijing for Seoul to discuss the redistribution of credits meant for the former Soviet Union between the CIS member states.

Trade, Economic Agreement Signed

LD0505075292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0550 GMT 5 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Fedoruk]

[Text] Beijing, 5 May—The Russian and Chinese Governments today signed a trade and economic protocol for 1992 in the Chinese capital. The document determines the volume of goods deliveries between the two countries, based on exports of parts and equipment for construction projects still under way or completed in China with technical aid from Russia. The greater part of Russo-Chinese trade will consist of direct dealings, as well as border and barter trade.

Aleksandr Shokhin, deputy chairman of the government and Russian Federation labor and employment minister, who today completes his visit to Beijing, told ITAR-TASS that Russo-Chinese trade is increasingly devolving to dealings at the enterprise, regional, and company level. The protocol lists goods in which Russia and China have a particular interest. According to Shokhin, the PRC is interested in supplies of machinery and aviation products, especially transport aircraft, while the Russian Federation intends to acquire consumer goods and food. The role of agreed lists of goods for trading, he noted, will in the future decline in mutual trade. Shokhin spoke in favor of broader and more effective economic cooperation between the two countries. The most important task is to make Russian and Chinese economic mechanisms more compatible. Therefore, we should not limit ourselves to trade but expand joint investment projects, he stressed.

More Military Experts To Return From Libya

OW0505105992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0952 GMT 5 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Two Tupolev-154s are to bring more military from Russia and other CIS countries from Tripoli to Moscow this afternoon. According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, one more flight will be made on Wednesday [6 May] with the permission of the UN committee for sanctions and with the consent of the Libyan side.

Air ties with Libya have been severed under the UN Security Council sanctions introduced last month. Russia has to ask permission from the United Nations for the evacuation of military and technical personnel which is also provided for by the sanctions.

Meanwhile, the Russian Foreign Ministry is expecting a note from the Libyan embassy in Moscow naming the 6 or 7 diplomats who will have to leave Russia in line with the sanctions. Libya has demanded a similar reduction of the Russian diplomatic personnel in Tripoli. Hence the Russian embassy in Libya is to inform the local authorities of the number of diplomats it is sending home.

Rutskoy Envisions Cooperation With Egypt

LD0405151192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 4 May 92

[Report by correspondent K. Gerasimov; introduction by Tatyana Komarova; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Komarova] Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy arrived back in Moscow today. Our correspondent reports on the outcome of his visit to Egypt.

[Gerasimov] [video shows Egyptian presidential palace, Mubarak seated with Rutskoy] Egypt is closely following events in the former Soviet Union and stresses that it is in Egyptian interests for Russia to remain a powerful and viable state with influence in the international arena. The presidential palace, the 'Abidin, is in the heart of Cairo. Here, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak received Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy. There was a brief interview after the talks.

[Begin Rutskoy recording] The Egyptian president and I have something in common: We are both pilots. A pilot's principle is to think before you act. So, our talks tended to focus on prospects and possibilities. As President Mubarak said, the door is open for cooperation in all fields, including business contacts; just go ahead. [video

shows convoy of limousines, Rutskoy admiring pyramids, shaking hands with military officers, posing in jet fighter cockpit, on walking tour of airfield] [end recording]

[Gerasimov] Aleksandr Rutskoy made a number of short visits in Egypt. The hope here is that Rutskoy's visit will boost trade between our countries, which is currently, alas, in sharp decline.

Khasbulatov Continues Visit to Germany

Meets With Bavarian Counterpart

LD0205105992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1553 GMT 29 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Kalintsev]

[Text] Munich, 29 Apr—The Federal Land of Bavaria will support, to the best of its abilities, democratic transformations in Russia and the birth of a socially oriented economy there, Bavarian Parliament Chairman Wilhelm Vorndran told journalists. Vorndran met here today with Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, who is making his first official visit to Germany.

Vorndran stressed that this visit is a continuation of intensive contacts with Russia at the legislative and executive levels, a welcome step. This is one more contribution to long-term and fruitful cooperation between Germany and Russia and their peoples. We know that the centuries-old history of their relations has gone through some difficult stages, but the present task is to single out all the positive aspects and to continue them, taking the present into account. Bavarian statehood has existed for 14 centuries and its parliament has long-standing traditions. The Federation Treaty was recently signed in Russia, and we know that Germany is also built on the principles of federalism. Therefore, we are prepared to share our experience in the area of building a federative state that takes into account the interests of both the Federal authorities and the regions and regional diversity, the parliament chairman said.

Vorndran stressed that the parliament will establish and develop direct contacts with Russian parliamentarians and support all initiatives aimed at strengthening partnership links between cities, communities, and individual citizens. Bavarian entrepreneurs who wish to invest their capital in the Russian economy—and by doing so, contribute to its development—will get the utmost support.

Ruslan Khasbulatov pointed out that during his visit to the FRG, the most important issue was the question of establishing interparliamentary ties. He noted that Germany and Russia are both federal states, and that their cooperation at various levels is important for both sides.

Asked about the convertibility of the ruble in light of the IMF decision, the Russian parliament speaker replied that he believed it would be impossible to achieve this goal without a general stabilization of the economy. Obviously, it will not be enough to just make changes in the financial sphere and in monetary circulation. These factors should be closely connected to the development of a consumer market, with general structural reforms in the economy and privatization. At present, the monopoly of state enterprises is still being maintained, which results in the deprivation of the competitive basis of a developing market economy. Ruslan Khasbulatov stated that Russia is grateful for any help from the world community. It should be admitted, however, that taking into account the size of our country, it is obviously insufficient. For this reason the main emphasis in the future should be placed on our own resources.

The chairman of the Russian parliament also met with August Lang, Bavarian minister of economy and transport, and the heads of the Siemens company.

The chairman of the Bavarian parliament hosted a dinner for the Russian guests.

Ruslan Khasbulatov will continue his visit tomorrow in a new Federal land of the FRG, Saxony.

Meets With Journalists

PM3004133992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Apr 92 p 7

[RIA correspondent Vladimir Markov report for ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA: "Visits: 4:1 in Our Favor"]

[Text] Bonn—The latest working day in Bonn ended long after midnight for Ruslan Khasbulatov and the members of the Russian Supreme Soviet delegation of which he is the head. Bundestag Chairman Rita Suessmuth, with whom the head of the Russian parliament held almost 10 hours of discussion, stressed at the final meeting the need to expand ties between the two countries' parliaments. At the end of his official program in Bonn, Ruslan Khasbulatov met with journalists at the FRG Government's Petersberg residence.

Ruslan Khasbulatov spoke to Helmut Kohl there for more than an hour. RIA's correspondent was told by the chancellor's department that the head of the Bonn cabinet of ministers strongly supports economic reform in Russia.

A journalist from Bonn's DIE WELT put the last and possibly the most trenchant question to Ruslan Khasbulatov. Citing the fact that many people in the FRG see the head of the Russian parliament as a rival and even as a possible successor to the Russian president, she asked what the difference is between the two politicians: Boris Yeltsin and Ruslan Khasbulatov. "It is simply absurd and even funny to present my role in that way," the latter replied with a smile. "This may flatter my vanity, but I am more modest and one should not overestimate my role as Russian parliamentary speaker," he commented.

R. Khasbulatov visited Bavaria yesterday. He met with the leadership of the Landtag in the old Munich town hall. "Bavaria will do as much as it can to help the reforms in Russia, on whose success the future of not only this great country, but all Europe depends," Landtag President Wilhelm von Vorndran said.

Terms Visit 'Successful'

LD3004195692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1813 GMT 30 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Savvin]

[Text] Dresden April 30 TASS—Russian Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov leaves here for Moscow by air tonight at the close of his official visit to Germany.

Speaking at a news conference here today, Khasbulatov described the results of his visit as successful. On Wednesday [28 April] Khasbulatov visited Munich where he met with Bavarian Landtag members and representatives of the business community.

Matters aimed at strengthening contacts between the Russian and German paliaments were discussed in detail during a meeting with Bundestag President Rita Suessmith, Khasbulatov said. Talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and the leaders of all groups in the Bundestag were highly substantive.

"These meetings provided an opportunity to inform the interlocutors of the state of affairs in the Russian Federation, the course of and prospects for economic reforms and the preparation of a new Russian constitution. Information on the functions of German federal structures at all levels will certainly be of use to our country," Khasbulatov said.

The need for the earliest restoration of the former economic relations between East Germany and Russia was emphasised during talks held in the Saxony Landtag here today, Khasbulatov said.

The Russian parliament speaker's opinion is that at present it is also of importance to comprehensively develop cultural, economic and parliamentary contacts between the lands of Germany, on the one hand, and autonomous republics, regions and territories of Russia, on the other, and to stimulate direct partnership contacts between them.

Interviewed on Visit's Achievements

LD0405210292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 4 May 92

[Interview with Ruslan Imranovich Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, by Russian Federation people's deputy Rasul Mikailov in Saxony; date not given; from the "Facing Russia" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mikailov] Ruslan Imranovich, what would you say is the main achievement of this trip?

[Khasbulatov] As you know, the main point is that the trip was made at the invitation of Federal Bundestag President Frau Suessmuth, and first of all, naturally, we exchanged experiences on the work of our parliaments. We discussed the need to improve efficiency and for more serious cooperation between our parliaments and between individual parliamentarians, including committees, commissions, and groupings. You have seen for yourself how important groupings are in parliamentary activity and in political life in general, and in influencing the government.

Second, great interest was shown in the results of our recent Congress, by parliamentarians, by the chancellor, the foreign minister, and by many members of the Federal Government. Their interest was heightened by the fact that some of these results were somewhat distorted here.

[Mikailov] And our reforms in general and the attitude of our parliament?

[Khasbulatov] Yes, and of course, I assured them that the absolute majority of our deputies support the most profound transformations. I told them that what is involved here is the need to pay attention to a greater social dimension, taking into account the interests of all sections of the population. I also said we have sections that are not provided for in these reforms.

Incidentally, I drew their attention to the fact that these ideas are very close to those of the chancellor and their parliamentarians. As you know, for almost 30 years the economy in their country has been developed by taking into account the people's interests. This is the concept of a social market economy, which was developed, thoroughly developed, by the well-known Professor Ludwig Erhardt. For a short time he was also chancellor.

Incidentally, they actually stressed the need to take into account the people's interests, even the minimal experience they already have of involving the eastern lands in the market economy structures. Incidentally, they are planning to spend $150 billion in one year to develop the economy of the five eastern lands of the former GDR. Just imagine!

[Mikailov] This could be multiplied 10-fold and transferred to Russia.

[Khasbulatov] However significant the international aid we receive—and for this, or course, we are grateful—we must emphasize our own resources. To do this, it is necessary to interest as many people as possible in these reforms. In general, we are pretty good at creating opponents for ourselves in our country, and where we are making the least effort is in extending the social base, the base of support for our reforms.

Generally speaking, our recent stay here has been very useful. We visited Bavaria and met with the government

officials there. We also met with various groups and parliamentarians and with the leadership of the local parliament, as we did here in Saxony where this interview is taking place. This is actually the most industrially developed region of the former GDR, this Saxony, this Republic of Saxony, the land of Saxony.

Incidentally, there is immense interest here in continuing cooperation with us. After all, they are also suffering from the loss of economic ties. Indeed, all our major enterprises on Russian territory were in one way or another linked to the GDR through cooperation schemes, and of course, we must do what we can to restore at least some of these ties. We would benefit from this, of course, but it seems to me that not enough efforts are really being made here on the part of the government. It appears that we parliamentarians need, in some way, to have a more active influence on this aspect (?of the overall problem).

[Mikailov] I have the impression, and perhaps have even come to believe, that the chancellor and other leaders of the German federal bodies generally share in and approve of the positions that the Russian Supreme Soviet, and perhaps the Congress, have now adopted on the reforms and on the methods of their implementation.

[Khasbulatov] Yes, yes. This was quite evident when we explained our positions, and this is what they said. This is correct, and indeed the chancellor said so.

To be quite frank, I did not take seriously the reports in our papers and in Western papers that there was some kind of profound disagreement between the Supreme Soviet and the government. I hardly need to tell you that there are always disagreements, but where the reforms are concerned, as far as I know, we believe that a competitive economy is essential and that the development of market relations is also essential, just as is the goal of achieving the people's prosperity. Consequently, it is essential that the interests (?of these people) be considered. They should be the champions of these reforms. It should not be in spite of their interests that the reforms are carried out, but by guaranteeing and protecting their interests.

Therefore, in my view, we have found very intelligent people to talk to here. We then must keep in mind that Germany is providing us with a considerable amount of aid and assistance, far more than any other country. So we must particularly value our relations with Germany and seriously expand development and intensify economic and cultural ties.

Incidentally, when I met with certain top commanders here, I learned from them—and our embassy also told me this—that they are very positive about the problem of withdrawing Soviet troops. They are being very tolerant and understanding of our problems and are participating in the construction of various kinds of facilities; for example, [words indistinct] and so on.

Therefore, all in all, the meetings here have been interesting and, in my view, fruitful. Of course, we parliamentarians do need to ensure that ties become more multifaceted, expand, and made more universal.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD0205162592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2010 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Today the visit by Ruslan Khasbulatov to Germany ended. After Bonn, he also visited Munich and Dresden. It was a revelation for our parliament's speaker that Bavaria considers itself to be some kind of Ukrainian property regarding partnership. Whatever we might try to claim at home, with Germany it is difficult. In Bavaria, which traditionally has developed links with Ukraine, or North Rhein Westphalia which has a treaty with Russia, they have enough strength and resources for everyone. Khasbulatov received a promise from the German parliament to give the Russian parliament specific help in organizing the work of committees, the administrative apparatus, and technical communications. German experts will soon arrive in Moscow. The German federal system could be a starting point for Russian reforms.

Khasbulatov spoke in favor of the gradual establishment of German autonomy on the Volga. Speaking about our internal problems, he expressed dissatisfaction with the mass media coverage of the work of the Congress of People's Deputies. Answering a question from German correspondents on whether or not he is a true opponent of Yeltsin and aspires to the post of Russia's leader, Khasbulatov asked that his, as he put it, modest post not be overrated, and stressed that nothing separates him from Yeltsin.

Bundestag President Views Khasbulatov Visit

PM2804154592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Apr 92 p 7

[RIA correspondent Vladimir Markov for ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA: "Visit: Ruslan Khasbulatov on the Rhine"]

[Text] The five-day official visit to the FRG that began on Sunday [26 April] evening by Ruslan Khasbulatov, Russian Supreme Soviet chairman, has at least two special features.

First, for more than six years, neither the Soviet nor Russian parliament heads have visited Bonn. Thus, a definite gap developed in a fairly well-balanced sequence of political contacts, which Ruslan Khasbulatov's meetings with German leaders are now designed to fill. Following a meeting with R. Khasbulatov, I was told by Bundestag President Rita Suessmuth: "We have always thought that it was not quite enough to just maintain dialogue at the level of both states' cabinets of ministers and government structures. It is absolutely essential to

supplement intergovernmental relations with cooperation between the FRG and Russian parliaments. This is particularly important now when Russia is surmounting considerable difficulties with the implementation of market reforms."

The second special feature of the visit is the indisputable differences in the position of the heads of the Russian and German parliaments. Respect for her professional qualities and considerable experience notwithstanding—although according to official protocol Rita Suessmuth holds the second post—she cannot aspire to a leading political role, such as the head of state, the Federal president. The Bundestag president directs the parliament's work, but does not claim to influence the course and results of parliamentary debate and thus the alignment of political forces. Against this backdrop, it is by no means easy for Germans to understand the place that the head of the Russian parliament holds in the Russian political system. Rita Suessmuth pointed out in an interview with your correspondent that the German side is interested in receiving "firsthand" information about the situation in Russia following the Sixth Congress of People's Deputies.

The German side prepared a "full-scale" program for R. Khasbulatov. Yesterday after being received by Mayor Hans Daniels and writing in Bonn's "Golden Book," he met with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and the leaders of political factions.

Parliamentary Group To Visit Troops in FRG

LD0105192492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1117 GMT 30 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Apr—The troops of the former USSR will be leaving Germany by the end of 1994. In April, by a decree of Boris Yeltsin, they were transferred to Russian jurisdiction, and now Russia will have full responsibility for the withdrawal of more than 200,000 military personnel and also for resolving the disputes that are still outstanding. A delegation of the Russian parliament, led by Sergey Filatov, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, will visit Germany from 4 to 11 May in order to become familiar with the progress of the preparations for the return of the military units to their homeland and with the situation of the officers and men. The delegation will visit units in Berlin, Leipzig, Potsdam, Dresden, Brandenburg, and Rostock and meet the officers and men and their families. The members of the delegation will tell them about the housing program for the returning servicemen and what measures will be taken to find jobs for them and provide for their social welfare. They will inspect those garrisons that will be handed over to the German side, meet the Bundeswehr Command, representatives of parliament, and with the leaders of the federal lands on whose territory the former Soviet troops are stationed. During these meetings, the following unresolved problems will be discussed: What is to become of army property? What compensation will be offered for the damage to the environment while the units have been in Germany?

Troop Withdrawal Preparations

LD0405212592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1942 GMT 4 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Savvin]

[Text] Berlin May 4 TASS—A Russian parliament delegation led by First Deputy Chairman Sergey Filatov on Monday [4 May] arrived in the city of Wuensdorf, where the Western Group of Forces is headquartered.

The delegation will visit the group's military units in Berlin, Dresden, Leipzig, Potsdam, Rostock, Schwerin and other East German cities to review preparations for the troops withdrawal. The delegation will also review military garrisons that will be handed over to the German side.

The delegates will meet Group Commander Colonel General Matvey Burlakov and attend a wreath-laying ceremony in Berlin's Treptow Par on May 9.

The delegation will stay in eastern Germany until May 11.

Ethnic German Emigration, Republic Viewed

LD0405023492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 3 May 92

[Report by correspondent V. Kondratyev from Bonn; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Data have just been published in Bonn about the number of persons of German nationality arriving here. There are considerably fewer of them than in the past two years, but from the CIS, the flow continues to be great: almost 12,000 people in April.

Meanwhile, Russia has firmly promised Bonn that the republic of the Germans on the Volga will be restored stage-by-stage in those places where their ancestors have always lived. This is true, with the reservation, however, that the interests of the population now living there will not be abridged. An accord has been reached stating that out of the two ethnic regions designated in Yeltsin's February decree—the lands in Saratov Oblast are part of the former Volga Republic—a new independent community is to emerge step by step.

Before the end of the year, elections of organs of national self-government are envisaged: They will have the right to develop foreign economic ties, collect taxes, and make use of natural resources. A joint government commission comprising Russia and Germany will watch over the migration to the Volga region of Germans from the diaspora. Germany will provide material and other assistance, not only to Germans but also to representatives of other peoples in this region.

In Bonn, politicians have been heartened to the point that they are calling on our Germans to avail themselves of this new chance and not to hurry to Germany. But the stage-by-stage concept is very loose, especially because, having signed a cooperation protocol on this matter, the Russian minister for national minorities stated in Moscow that so far, there is no clear policy regarding either the timeframe for or the exact borders of the autonomous entity. A German republic is a goal of the future.

Primakov, Swedish Police Discuss Security

LD0105125792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1416 GMT 30 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[Text] Stockholm April 30 TASS—The process of establishment of cooperation with Western partners in the field of security has begun and has an objective basis, Yevgeniy Primakov told a news conference in the Swedish capital on Thursday.

Head of the Russian Foreign Intelligence emphasised that this was dictated by the need to join efforts in stemming the spread of weapons of mass destruction, organised crime and narcobusiness. During his visit to Stockholm he discussed these issues with colleagues from Swedish police and the Secret Service SEPO.

"We don't have a formal agreement, but an exchange of views showed that we could swap information, particularly, as regards prevention of terrorism," said Primakov. The Russian service is prepared to exchange this information and counts on similar moves by the Swedish side.

Asked about cuts in its spy network abroad, Primakov replied: "We scale down our presence abroad because accents are changing in our activity". According to him, the Russian Intelligence "protects the national interests of Russia and is not opposed to any country".

"We have moved away from confrontation in world affairs," he stressed.

Talks 'Most Businesslike'

PM0105143992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 May 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Marat Zubko report: "Special Services Switch to Cooperation"]

[Text] Stockholm-Helsinki—As already reported, Yevgeniy Primakov, leader of Russia's foreign intelligence service, has spent three days in Sweden on an official visit.

Your correspondent contacted Ye. Primakov and asked him to answer a question concerning his highly unusual visit.

"The visit," Ye. Primakov said, "gave me, in particular, an opportunity to meet with Prime Minister Carl Bildt and my Swedish colleagues—leaders of the special services. We exchanged opinions on many situations, including those to be observed in 'trouble spots,' and also on questions of combating the possibility of the spread of weapons of mass destruction, particularly in regions where conflicts could escalate into crises and draw other countries into them. In general, I can say that the discussion was most businesslike."

I can add the following to these words of Ye. Primakov's: His visit aroused appreciable interest in Sweden, because exposes of the activities of the former Soviet special services in this country featured almost constantly on newspaper pages and television screens for several decades.

Mikhailov, Sweden's Uglas on Nuclear Tests

LD0405200892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1902 GMT 4 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[Text] Stockholm May 4 TASS—Sweden is very concerned about a possible resumption of nuclear tests on Novaya Zemlya, Foreign Minister Margaretha Uglas told visiting Russian Minister of Atomic Energy Viktor Mikhailov today, according to the Swedish Foreign Ministry press service.

Stockholm favors a complete ban on nuclear explosions, Uglas said.

Explaining the position of the Russian Government, Mikhailov said that President Yeltsin had ordered a moratorium on tests until the end of the year. Their total ban will depend on analogous steps by the United States, he said.

The sides also discuss non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Russian minister denied rumors about emigration of nuclear experts from Russia.

News Conference on Russo-Finnish Trade Talks

LD0205095392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1242 GMT 29 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Arkadiy Prisyazhniy]

[Text] Helsinki, 29 Apr—The Russian-Finnish agreement on trade and economic cooperation in the areas of Russia bordering Finland, which was signed in January during the visit to Finland by Russian State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis, promises good opportunities for the revival of bilateral trade. The practical implementation of this important document could begin this fall. This was stated at a news conference on the meeting of the Russian-Finnish working group on trade, which ended today in Helsinki.

The meeting of the group, created by a decision of the two countries' leaderships during G. Burbulis' visit, took place under difficult conditions, noted Veli Sundbaeck, under secretary of state at the Finnish Foreign Ministry and the Finnish cochairman of the group. The level of our trade volume has never been so low as in recent years. During the first three months of this year, Finnish exports to Russia made up only 3 percent of the total exports. This reflects the difficulties being experienced by our neighbor, the speaker noted.

In his opinion, however, the Russian Government's recent decisions— concerning the reduction of customs duties, the creation of preconditions for barter trade at the enterprise level, and the active, independent participation of more and more Russian partners in foreign trade—create good preconditions for the normalization of the situation.

During the meeting we noted a coincidence of opinions on the majority of questions, stressed Yuriy Olkhovikov, Russian deputy economy minister, the Russian cochairman. The talks took place in a businesslike atmosphere which permitted a constructive approach to the resolution of many "delicate" questions, including questions concerning Russia's debt, he noted. The delegation head also stated that in view of the example of Russian-Finnish relations, it is possible to see with one's own eyes that our country has already begun the practical realization of the plan to liberalize foreign trade. This is reflected in particular in the full participation of representatives from border regions in the working group. Their direct participation—bypassing Moscow—in establishing business contacts will allow the number of partners to increase and mutually advantageous cooperation to be extended.

Yu. Olkhovikov urged Finnish business circles not to wait for Russian legislation to be completely ready to work under the new conditions but to show greater initiative. In particular, there is no sense in waiting for a law on concessions. It is already possible to develop actively the exploitation of Russian natural minerals, forests, and energy resources, initially under lease conditions. Later, after the appropriate laws have appeared, lease relations can be switched to concession relations, the delegation head noted.

New Border Checkpoint Opened With Finland

LD0305052292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1145 GMT 1 May 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Arkasdiy Prisyazhnyy]

[Text] Helsinki, 1 May—Today, the first tourists proceeded through the new checkpoint on the Russian-Finnish border in the region of the locality of Vartius. It will permit an increase in the flow of vehicles and passengers between the two countries, arrange a direct link between the border regions of Finland and Russia, and reduce the distance needed for transportation.

According to a statement that was circulated in connection with this event by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, the question of expanding crossing capacity on the border has been repeatedly raised during talks between representatives of the ministers of foreign affairs from both states. The fundamental decision on increasing the number of checkpoints was made during a meeting of heads of Foreign Affairs Ministries, Andrey Kozyrev and Paavo Vaeyrynen, which took place on 23 March 1992 in Helsinki.

At the present time, representatives of foreign political departments are discussing the possibilities for the opening of three more checkpoints in the region of Niirala, Salo, and Kuusamo.

Border Accord Reached With Poland, Byelarus

LD0105134292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0710 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valentin Volkov]

[Text] Warsaw, 24 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—The decision to open seven new border checkpoints in the very near future between Poland and Russia was made at a meeting of the heads of the border and customs services of the two countries here on Thursday. In the not too distant future, Colonel Marek Lisiecki, head of the border service of Poland, reported that it will be possible to travel to Kaliningrad oblast from Poland via three railway crossing points and four road checkpoints. This will help in increasing the volume of freight and passenger transportation and the expansion of border cooperation and exchanges. Because the establishment of the new border checkpoints requires considerable investment, the crossing points will be opened up gradually.

Starting on 1 July, Russia, Byelarus, and Poland are to respect documents on conducting customs checks on a reciprocal basis. This is stated in the agreement signed in Warsaw on Thursday by the heads of the three countries' customs services. Miroslaw Zielinski, head of the customs directorate of Poland, told journalists that it will facilitate customs checks on the borders where increasingly long lines of truck drivers have been in evidence since January this year. In March alone, the amount of goods transported across Poland's eastern frontier more than doubled compared with the figure for December last year.

The new agreement will allow customs formalities to be considerably simplified as truck drivers previously had to fill out almost identical customs documents in order to go through the checkpoint first in one language and then immediately in the other language and submit them to the services of the two countries one after the other. Starting in July, this procedure will be simplified: only one document will have to be filled out.

The customs services of the three countries have jointly discussed a proposal to the authorities of Germany to recognize Russian, Byelarussian, and Polish customs documents as well.

The main customs directorate of Poland has promised to hand over to representatives of Russia and Byelarusia 39 icons that were illegally exported to Poland and were confiscated from smugglers by the Polish services.

Albania's President Seeks 'Modest' Assistance

LD3004091292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Interview with Albanian President Sali Berisha by corresondent V. Solovyov in Tirana; date not given; Berisha speaks in Albanian with superimposed translation into Russian by Solovyev; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Solovyev] [passage omitted] The country is paralyzed. For the past year it has been practically living on humanitarian aid alone. Seventy-five percent of all enterprises have closed. There are no raw materials. Delapidated trains are standing idle and rusting, and aircraft are not flying. The destruction of rural cooperatives, the uncontrolled division of their property, high inflation, and the people's lack of incentives to work have led, even under rationing of products by coupons, to difficulties in guaranteeing the minimum physiological level for each of the 3.2 million Albanians.

[Berisha] The economy of Albania is one of the most backward. We have inherited many bad laws. We must establish law and order and public calm in the country, hold elections in local bodies of power, create judicial power, reorganize the police and the Sigurimi security services, create incentives for increasing agricultural output, and develop transportation and tourism. We must provide industry with raw materials so it can resume production. In this regard, I think that Russia, despite its present difficulties, could lend Albania modest aid as far as raw materials for profitable enterprises are concerned. I would be very satisfied and happy to receive President Yeltsin in Albania, as the head of a democratic state with which Albania would like to have the best relations.

Federation Affairs

Filatov Disagrees With Yeltsin on Referendum

LD0505102692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1001 GMT 5 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—"No referendum should be held on the entire draft of the new constitution for the Russian Federation, as urged by President Boris Yeltsin, but the idea cannot be fully disregarded," First Vice-Speaker of the Russian Supreme Soviet Sergey Filatov told ITAR-TASS. In his opinion, a "referendum is necessary, but only on the main provisions of the draft, which are of fundamental importance."

He regards the land problem as one of such provisions, since it is necessary to decide once and for all whether it should be handed over to private owners with the right of sale and purchase. Another major problem is the structure of Russia's administration—whether it should be presidential or parliamentary. "If disputes around the land reform or the form of our state adminstration evoke sharp contradiction in society, why not ask the people for their view," Filatov noted.

The vice-speaker said he did not share Yeltsin's idea to collect a million signatures of voters in support of a referendum on the new constitution, not leaving any place for the Congress of People's Deputies, this "large talking-shop, where very little is being decided", as the president put it. "When I met Yeltsin before this statement," Filatov explained, "I understood that he adhered to a very firm stand, coinciding with that of the Supreme Soviet: No arm of administration should be touched today. The president has probably reconsidered his view. I don't rule out even that this was done under the influence of emotions with which people welcomed him during his northern trip."

"We must consistently implement our mapped programme. We must not waver," Filatov said. "After all, the Sixth Congress of People's Deputies has, in the main, approved the draft of the new Russian constitution. It will be published and people will submit their proposals, which we shall sum up."

"As to the key provisions of the now prepared draft constitution, they can be protected from various surprises by means of a referendum," Filatov believes.

Gorbachev Quizzed on Yeltsin, Congress

PM0105184992 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1 May 92 p 1

[Interview with Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev by D. Muratov and V. Fronin, place and date not given, under the "Once A Month With Gorbachev" rubric: "I Would Not Have Remained General Secretary"]

[Text] [KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] As always in April, there was a lot of talk about Lenin. Mikhail Sergeyevich, is it not time we buried him humanely?

[Gorbachev] I would like to leave this question outside the parameters of our conversation.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] You were able to grasp what Ilich stood for ahead of most people, but is your attitude toward him unchanged?

[Gorbachev] For me, he is not an idol. But I truly understand that Lenin is a part of world culture. His was

a most powerful intellect which operated within the channel of a narrow class ideology. I spent a lot of time studying his last works. He rethought many of his tragic moves, he tried to correct them, and the New Economic Policy would not have been a short term campaign. I think I understand him.

Gorbachev Answers Letters For this month's meeting with Gorbachev we brought along a few of the many thousands of letters received by the editorial office. We warned him that we had chosen deliberately tricky ones for him. "I'm quite sure you did." [Gorbachev replied]

[First letter] **"I get the impression that you are now afraid to meet the former Soviet people. You went from Germany to Japan, from Japan you will go to the United States, and then somewhere else. Are things easier for you there? And here, in this country, do you want to avoid explanations?" [signed] I. Yanshchina, teacher.**

[Gorbachev] We are getting our foundation on its feet. What we need right now are contacts with organizations similar to ours. I signed two agreements in Japan—one with the Peace Institute and one with the UN University—and we will cooperate in elaborating major projects and in the search for paths to a new civilization. This is the reason for my trips. As for the suggestion that I am afraid to meet the people, afraid of explanations, I can assure you that I have no such complex.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] And is this the only reason for your domestic "seclusion"? Or have you agreed with Yeltsin not to oppose him?

[Gorbachev] There is an element of this. And in this connection I want to say that a section of the Russian leadership is highly suspicious of the foundation. They seem to think that we are launching rival political activities. I do not want to tour the country until we start holding symposiums and conferences, as these would be political, not scientific, visits.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] In Japan, you simply demanded support for the Russian reforms. It even seemed that this was said not so much for the Japanese as for the Kremlin.

[Gorbachev] No, I was speaking to the Japanese. Yes, I appealed for support for the reforms to the greatest degree possible because this is more important than my personal relations with anyone.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] A group of deputies in Tula would like to see you as governor...Is it likely that you will accept a specific proposal, as Shevardnadze and Travkin did?

[Gorbachev] No. My current plans do not include anything of this sort.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Is "current" the operative word in your answer?

[Gorbachev] Yes. But I will not stand in the way of the policy of transformations. I will help as best I can. And I will criticize, but nobody should count on my just swimming with the current...[a chtoby ya podstraival-sya—na eto nikto pust ne rasschityvayet]

[Letter] (Yu. Lemeshev, Tatarstan—**editor's note**) I am a sociologist and I would very much like you to answer a few questions: If you had remained president, then...

Would you have opted for price hikes?

[Gorbachev] Yes. There were plans to liberate prices at the end of the anticrisis program.

[Letter] **Would you have remained CPSU general secretary?**

[Gorbachev] No. My task was to lead the party to the congress. The party was bound to break up, it was bound to splinter on the basis of the program.

[Letter] **Would you have entered into alliance with Yeltsin?**

[Gorbachev] We are united with regard to the reform of the political system and property relations. We differed in our approaches to the reform of the Union. In the struggle with the center, Yeltsin struck a blow not so much against the center as against the Union and Russia. There is also some divergence in the response to the question of what price to pay in order to achieve the set aims. And the final and, maybe, the most important thing: social engineering [modelirovaniye] could never supersede the natural road of development for society. We know only too well what happened when people were coerced into collectivization and industrialization, so why foist "Burbulization" onto them now?

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Did you perhaps discern what Kryuchkov, Yanayev, and the others stand for?

[Gorbachev] Yes, but then many things were already clear to me. I had to devise my own tactics so that they would not overstep the mark. Yeltsin, Nazarbayev, and I already had an understanding that once the Union Treaty had been signed, and without waiting for the new constitution, we would move toward new organs of power and new elections. We were thinking in terms of agreeing this with other republic leaders too. Thus, new people would have come to the fore.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] One final question from Lemeshev, the sociologist: "Had you resolved to introduce private land ownership?"

[Gorbachev] Personally, I would not have objected. On one condition: that the people themselves decide. In Russia, land is not just a place for planting potatoes or corn—land is still the basis of the communal psychology inherent in many people.

Gorbachev on the Present

[Gorbachev] ...In general, it is no longer relevant to hark back to the USSR. Alas, what we are left with now is to proceed merely on the basis of what we actually have now. What we have is the CIS. But take a look: neither Ukraine nor Russia are busy laying the foundations of cooperation. It is a major strategical error to sever links within the Commonwealth. This will lead to the collapse of the market and national security, and to the most serious conflicts in questions of citizenship. I will repeat again and again: There is an urgent need for an effective form of management within the CIS itself....

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] In the press a few days ago, news appeared with reference to B.N. Yeltsin on the fact that the Soviet Union had continued to develop bacteriological weapons in violation of the convention on banning them. Witnesses' statements were published in our newspaper 30 April. Did you know about this?

[Gorbachev] It was precisely two years ago that the American side presented me with a claim [vopros] that they had information regarding the development in our country of bacteriological weapons. We had information to the effect that the Americans had apparently not curtailed their own work in this sphere. Subsequently I met with George Bush at Camp David. There, on the golf course, we had a conversation which I cannot go into—it was private, and it seems to me to be simply unethical to reveal the nature of our conversation unilaterally.

It was then that I suggested that our countries might exchange experts, and they visited various test grounds. Few people know even about their arrival. We drew conclusions on the basis of the results of experts' work. Officially, the United States did not question the USSR. Our viewpoint was similar. The fact is that enterprises and scientific research centers both in our country and in the United States had continued work on developing protective vaccines. It was necessary to safeguard both countries from, for example, the possibility of "redesignating" [pereprofilirovaniye] these facilities. So the foreign ministries of the USSR and of the United States were brought into the talks too.

Finally, upon handing the presidential archives to President Yeltsin, I mentioned this problem. He replied: "You know, Mikhail Sergeyevich, even now in Sverdlovsk there are two enterprises which I know like the back of my hand. They, too, are making something there." I replied: "So find out exactly if that really is so."

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] An inevitable question, Mikhail Sergeyevich—what did you think of the Congress of Russian People's Deputies?

[Gorbachev] I think that if Yeltsin had sided with the various forces demanding that the congress be dissolved, we would have ended up in a most complex situation. But I will tell you straight—it is silly to paint the congress all one color—the congress was a mirror image of the entire spectrum of moods in society, and if nothing else it fulfilled its task in this respect. Furthermore, the congress took some members of right-wing circles down a peg or two. Yes, I am in favor of a presidential rule [prezidentskoye pravleniye] and strong executive authority, but I am against deciding the fate of organs of power by foot-stamping—there must be sufficient patience to adopt a constitution and hold new elections. Therefore, I am very positive in my evaluation of Yeltsin's closing speech. [Gorbachev ends]

...Upon leaving, we congratulated Mikhail Sergeyevich on the upcoming holidays. Likewise, he congratulated us, but, sensing a trick on our part regarding "old-style" mutual congratulations, he said that the holidays have not been positively sanctioned, but neither have they been abolished. So you can either continue to celebrate them, or you can forget them.

Labor Official Comments on Unemployment

OW0505055692 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1800 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Interview with Fedor Timofeyevich Prokopov, Chairman of the Russian Ministry of Labor Committee for Unemployment, by Aleksandr Anov and Tatyana Vedeneyeva; from the "Utro" program—live]

[Text] [Panov] Our guest today is Fedor Timofeyevich Prokopov, Chairman of the Committee for Employment of the Ministry of Labor and Employment, and first Deputy of the Russian Ministry.

Fedor Timofeyevich, for decades, the Soviet people thought that they lived in the most just of all possible worlds, and one of the arguments for this was that we had no unemployment. For the sake of fairness let us note that there always was a limited, concealed unemployment, especially in the sphere of intellectual labor. Let me start with a general question: Do you not think that unemployment is part and parcel of any society?

[Prokopov] You have answered your own question. It really is so. One can hardly find a society that consciously creates unemployment, but it is a perfectly natural by-product of the development of society. Of course, we do not try to create artificial unemployment in Russia. But there is no denying that we have it.

[Panov] Yes, now it is being said that there is unemployment in Russia after all.

[Prokopov] Of course. As an illustration, I could say that no one would think that we could ever completely vanquish crime. But it does not mean that we should lay down our arms and stop fighting it. This is how we should treat unemployment: It is a bad thing, both socially and economically, but we must look for ways to soften this problem. However, you cannot just cancel it.

[Vedeneyeva] We have a labor exchange, but not everyone can turn there, not because it is physically impossible, but because certain traditions have been formed; some consider it humiliating or just strange, and people try to somehow find a job by themselves. There are quite a few people like that, and they are not taken into account. What is your attitude toward them? Do you try to take them into consideration?

[Prokopov] It is perfectly normal that not everyone who is looking for a job will apply to the employment service. Worldwide experience shows that an average of 30 or 40 percent is the maximum that employment services can cope with for those who seek work. The rest usually utilize newspaper ads, personal contacts, and so on. Here, the answer to your question may be very important. Apart from the direct functions of the employment service, we must also organize broad availability of information on other possiblities for job-hunting. It would be perfectly normal if people used other sources before they applied to us, and found their jobs independently. Then we could dedicate much more time to people who find themselves in a really difficult situation, and are not able to extricate themselves without the help of the government and unemployment services.

[Vedeneyeva] Do you issue some kind of brochures on this?

[Prokopov] Yes, we do, both in Moscow and in practically in every Oblast. Our services publish special newspapers, which contain not only information on vacancies, but also information on how the unemployed should behave, what their rights are. A lot of the published stuff is on legal questions. We are trying to address a wider circle of people, so as to provide as much information as we can on the possibilities for the person themselves, and not only of the employment services.

[Panov] According to your information, what is the number of unemployed in Russia?

[Prokopov] Up till the beginning of March, the number of the registered—I repeat, of the registered—unemployed was 118,000 people. Today, this is less than 1 percent of the unemployment level [as heard].

[Panov] I suppose that this number is somewhat lower than the actual one.

[Vedeneyeva] And it is probably growing all the time.

[Prokopov] It is, and quite rapidly too. By 1 January it was about 90,000. Calculate for yourself—it grew in the space of only one quarter. And the rate itself grows with time.

[Panov] So, we have to comment with sorrow that our right to work, guaranteed by the constitution, is only a declaration.

Many observers name a monstrous figure of 10 million unemployed in Russia alone by the end of this year. What is more, they say that if privatization is indeed broadly launched and conversion of the defense sector gets under way, this number will be even larger. What is you evaluation of such a gloomy prognosis?

[Prokopov] First, up till now, no country in the world had had the experience of going from zero unemployment to 10 million, which is 10 or 12 percent of the population. There is just no such thing. As I have already said, it is the end of the first quarter now, and it is less than 1 percent. I am doubtful that this is going to be a unique situation in worldwide experience, that we will have 10 percent unemployment by the end of this year. But it will grow quite rapidly....

[Panov interrupting] Well, we are quite a unique country.

[Vedeneyeva] And if it does grows rapidly, what can our legislative and executive powers suggest?

[Panov] First, we assume that by the end of this year, the most likely number of unemployed will be about 3 and a half or 4 million people. What are our plans? First, to stabilize as much as possible, the activities of those enterprises that have a good market perspective, and to prevent mass firing. Second, when enterprises do encounter the risk of mass firing—to provide a series of procedures that will have to be done before even the first worker is let go. A lot can be done, and such procedures are being formed with the participation of labor unions, the employers themselves, employment services, and local authorities. Our task is to try and offer employment, new jobs, and maybe assistance in setting up businesses—all this before the mass firing actually takes place. But I cannot say that all these things will rescue us from mass firing. The problem is going to be a very difficult one.

[Panov] What is the amount of unemployment relief offered by the state?

[Prokopov] This depends on the category of the unemployed. The average pay for a regular worker who was fired through no desire of his own but because of a closure is 70 percent of the average pay in the first three months, and then the percent is lowered in accordance with the period of unemployment.

[Vedeneyeva] When the state offers a job, what qualities must the one who is offered it posess? It is mainly physical labor, is it not?

[Prokopov] Yes, it is. As of today, the situation is like this: About 80 or 90 percent of the applicants are office workers, but 90 percent of the vacancies we have information on are meant for laborers, which presents psychological difficulties. The number of the vacancies is rapidly going down, too. Enterprises refuse to hire additional personnel, for obvious reasons.

We are used to thinking that if we spent all our lives as office workers, than we should continue doing so. It is difficult psychologically....

[Vedeneyeva interrupting] Especially if one used to be a boss.

[Panov] But life shows that, regrettably, the bosses manage to settle comfortably.

[Prokopov] Yes, but not all bosses are bad.

[Panov] Thank you very much for participating in our program, since this is a very important subject. I wish success to your ministry....

[Vedeneyeva interrupting] I hope you overcome all difficulties.

[Panov] Unemployment relief does not really allow one to survive [as heard], so I think that you have some hard times ahead.

[Prokopov] Of course. And the ministry alone can do nothing. We need the whole society, and also the media, to make an affort.

[Panov] Thank you, and we will be waiting for you to visit our program again.

Budget Official on Prices, Wages, Production

OW0405151292 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1800 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Interview with Aleksandr Petrovich Podshchenok, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Budget, Plans, Taxation, and Prices Commission, by Sergey Lomakin in Moscow; from the "Utro" program—live]

[Text] [Lomakin] Respected television viewers, I would like to introduce a very interesting guest, Aleksandr Petrovich Podshchenok, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Budget, Plans, Taxation, and Prices Commission. From this title, naturally, you will guess that our discussion will be on the budget and prices.

Aleksandr Petrovich, the congress has ended. The first post-congress government meeting has been held at which, among other topics, growth in prices, that is, price increases for energy were discussed. A decision has been made that the price of gas will be increased to seven rubles, 80 kopecks, I think for 93 [octane] gas. Well, all that is just a preamble.

In short, the first question: Will prices continue to rise?

[Podshchenok] Where else would they go? If, for a long time, one pretends that one has a balanced budget while in reality expenditures are growing faster than revenues, there can never be a balanced budget. The time will come when everything blows out. It is precisely in this quarter that the budget will blow out. The deficit will be on the order of 200 billion [currency not specified] plus; in the next quarter, the deficit could be 500 billion or more.

Let us talk about this for a moment. If this is true, naturally prices escalate. Domestic production is falling, the number of people remains the same, imports are more or less fixed—what is left to do? The people have more money, but there are fewer goods. Therefore, prices rise. It is an automatic progression. More than that, proportions were not set. Our prices for fuel and energy have always been low. But prices of everything else have been raised. Now the government has resolved to liberalize, to level out, the proportions. That means that further new offshoots, new windfalls, will come to the fore.

The most amazing and most serious result of these increases is that even in the fuel and energy industry there will not be enough money to survive the price increases. Subsidies will be necessary. So it is not by accident how the government...[changes thought] If you recall, Yeltsin's decree specifies that the first 40 percent of energy supplies will be billed at deregulated prices. Well, this cannot be held at 40 percent for long. That would be like getting 10 liters of Pepsi Cola and being told: Sell the first two liters at one ruble each and the rest at a deregulated price. Well, how can they check up on you? You will sell everything at the deregulated price.

It is the same here. The decree took effect, terrible abuses began, and it was clear that deregulated prices would soon be necessary. They have to be deregulated. However, it is a frightening thing to free prices.

Why? Because the proportions that we are used to, our ratios, have changed. We could always tell the ratio of how many kilograms of meat were needed for one videocassette recorder or how many liters of gas were needed for one car. Now all the proportions are changing.

The budget is becoming completely warped, and colossal subsidies are needed. There is a tiny concession to subsidies in the government's decision on gas. But basically, the core of the regulation dictates limits on transportation costs and containment of price increases for daily services, housing, and so on. Wherever there are many energy consumers, wherever there is a lot of gas, and wherever there is a lot of oil, there could be colossal price rises.

How do we implement this? How do we rein it in? How can we balance the budget? The government wants to do this and feels it must, but it is frightened. The task is difficult, and the government is unprepared. So this is why there is this interim period and this schedule of increases.

[Lomakin] Good, one more question, from a politician's point of view. One can understand the politicians, the government, and the leaders of the country in the Supreme Soviet, when they say that to get out of the rut in which we find ourselves and to move to a civilized market, naturally there is a need to free prices and naturally we must adhere to a social program. This is natural; otherwise we would be confronted with nonsense. However, from the point of view of the average citizen, the horror is that the majority of the population is beginning to fall below the poverty line and is

becoming beggars, and a very small strata is becoming rich and super rich. Social stability is extremely shaky. Are you not afraid that this may bury all the reforms?

[Podshchenok] That is a very important observation. A middle class must be created. We must create a middle class at any price to support society. But right now people have to adapt to what is going on. On one side, there are government and parliamentary protective measures. Yes, on 15 May we will introduce a 900 ruble minimum wage within the budget and a 900 ruble minimum pension. We will implement this; it is the limit of what the government can do under these conditions.

In fact, it is a realistic two or threefold increase in wages precisely for the poorest strata of the population. However, I am very much afraid that gradually the prices will exceed this limit. And, as far as the autonomous financial and private enterprises are concerned, in the alternative economy they are forced to chase around and find the money.

In this situation each person must help himself. So, what must be done? Maybe they will like, or dislike, this advice: First, everyone has understood by now that money must be spent as soon as it is acquired. Second, everyone has understood that money must be put into something that appreciates.

The biggest dream the people have at present is to obtain land and begin to build something on it. Just look. You and I can go anywhere, to any point in the country, and despite the lack of money, despite the lack of building materials, nevertheless, everyone is building, building and building, and they are doing the right thing.

The people have come to understand what must be done—the same as happened in Poland. A person uses the land—as you understand, the food is expensive—a person establishes a house, and decides to root himself firmly in the land, and that is very good. And it is a pity that things did not turn out too well with the land at the congress.

We must go in this direction, we must help the people, because this is one of their few chances to reach their aim. Their second chance is to find as much work as possible.

The people say: We are already working. But understand, when the country is falling to pieces, picture it, it is like slaughter. We said it ourselves, we do not need the VPK [Military Industrial Complex] but that is half of the economy. But now it is like a cancerous swelling, it is being cut out, it is collapsing.

That means a huge part of the work which we all did, was superfluous. That employment is disappearing. That means, we have to work, work, and work to ensure ourselves, and our children a reasonable level of existence.

Before, it was unusual for us [to hear] that in capitalist countries children worked somewhere. Now, you see, children bring home more money than the parents. Before, a person received a small wage, and considered that he did not need to work for his wage. Now he understands that he must work, work, and work. And the self same social security programs, about which everyone is continuously talking, are progressing extremely badly.

That is exactly what must be done now. That is, the state is duty bound to direct state aid to save the most wretched, the most beggarly, and the poorest. But any healthy person must take care of himself.

[Lomakin] Aleksandr Petrovich, you just mentioned that we must work a lot, I immediately remembered my three rules of life to which I have been adhering in recent times, and that is: First, not to believe any politician's promise, second, depend on oneself only, and [third,] work a great deal.

That is just a small introduction, if I may say. This is something else I would like to talk about; one can depend on all of these rules, but one will still not survive if there are such taxes as, unfortunately, exist at present. Production is at a standstill. Production is falling. Objectively, it will continue to fall. For production to survive, taxes must be removed.

Some privileged industries must be created. Capitalize them, institute preferential taxes. But that is an obvious truth. Why does the government still not do this? Why are taxes increased instead?

[Podshchenok] In October, the Supreme Soviet, at first reading, adopted a parcel of laws which contained just exactly what you are talking about. However, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and Yegor Timorovich Gaydar—for all my love of him—are screaming that high taxes are needed. I understand them.

Their problem is that the state should have sufficient money to fund its expenditures.

[Lomakin] But that is now, but in a year they will not be there!

[Podshchenok] Not in a year, but in a few months, because the taxation base will founder. I can name businessmen right now who refuse to pay taxes, and have not been paying them having found loopholes. But the wholly soviet, honest, conscientious enterprise, a manufacturer, or some [industrial] giant, conscientiously pays its taxes, and is surprised to find they are greater than 100 percent of income. Undoubtedly! And the president put it well at the Congress, that as soon as the Supreme Soviet assembles, we need to immediately re-examine the taxation laws, and return to what we proposed.

First of all, make investment tax free. If money is invested in a business, it should not be subject to tax. Free charity from taxes, completely. If money is spent on charity matters, they should not be subject to tax. If money is spent in the social sphere, it should not be subject to tax. We are now in a position to do this and we understand how to do it.

Right now we must, at least, convince the IMF and the World Bank, and convince the government, although the majority of the government already understands that this must be done. However, with the IMF, it is more complicated. As it happens, the chairman of our subcommittee on taxation has just left for Washington today...

[Lomakin, interrupting] With the government delegation?

[Podshchenok] No, he specifically went to the U.S. State Department where there is to be a large and interesting conference with the representatives of all the major oil companies, and he will begin to try to persuade them there, maybe. We have a permanent delegation at the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

We must convince them that the magnitude of our taxes is already beyond limits. We are severely limiting expenditures as it is. We are trying terribly hard to limit expenditures. Come to our regular budget discussion when it is on, and you will see just how much we have to pare. How many hundreds of billions, hundreds of billions of necessary expenditures we have to throw out, and still everyone is unhappy. We have 30 committees in the Supreme Soviet, and I am convinced that 29 of them, excluding my commission, will all come to demand more. I understand that behind them are people who do not have any money. They have the most urgent needs—a new hospital, wages for teachers, a new kindergarten. All this is needed, but we cannot allow ourselves to have it. We must limit, and we must try to minimize taxes.

[Lomakin] Aleksandr Petrovich, one more question—the final one—and I will ask you to answer it fully and concisely. Those $24 billion, which the government consistently keeps saying that the IMF is prepared to supply, $6 billion of which is to stabilize the ruble, and so on—where is the $24 billion coming from? Forgive me, but I just cannot understand this. This is because about a year ago, in July, at the G-7 summit in London, they tried to find these billions of dollars for the Soviet Union, and at the time it was said that countries did not have these dollars, these billions of dollars; the money could only be found in Japan. However, Japan ties this in with the Northern Territories issue.

[Podshchenok] Please understand that half of these dollars are American debts which it has repaid, and it was obligated to repay them. The stabilizing fund will not actually be in our hands. It will remain somewhere; it is only a guarantee. Very little of it is hard cash. What we are used to is this: We are granted aid and we are granted credits. This means we will be receiving boots, videocassette recorders, furniture, medicines, and so on. There will be extremely little of that. There will be a bit of payment for food deliveries, and that is all—and very few investment programs. Therefore, these are small amounts of money, and we cannot depend on this aid. Also, the premier was extremely correct—I beg your pardon, Yegor Timorovich—when at a government meeting he emphasized that our most important task is to prepare ourselves to receive Western investment, and to be able to attract them—we still need to attract them—and to be able to disburse them. It is necessary to determine the project and not just say: I want $500 million and I will build an Eden on Earth. Instead we say: Here we have a need to build a mill, and we will build it in Magnitogorsk, and then we will not need to bring in sheet metal to build Zhiguli cars but, instead, make them from our own metal—self-funding projects like that. It is a colossal, difficult job, the hardest job to attract even one dollar. One can bandy about figures of 20 or 30 billion, but this is still not money. Believe me, it will take a very complicated and collaborative effort to obtain this.

[Lomakin] Nevertheless, we hope that the Supreme Soviet and the government will work closely, because in this is the pledge of stability for the whole society.

[Podshchenok] We always work closely together every day, even when we quarrel; nonetheless, we work together. We have the government and the Supreme Soviet that we have, and we have our common Russia, for whose sake we have to work.

[Lomakin] Thank you, Aleksandr Petrovich. Once again, I will introduce our guest, Aleksandr Petrovich Podshchenok, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Budget, Plans, Taxation, and Prices Commission. Thank you.

Procurator General Reviews Party Funds Issue

LD0305035392

[Editorial Report] Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian at 0650 GMT on 29 April broadcasts a 50-minute interview with Valentin Stapankov, procurator general of the Russian Federation, by correspondent Andrey Karaulov on the "Moment of Truth" program.

The program begins with a biography of Stepankov: "Valentin Georgiyevich Stepankov. Born Perm, 1951. Graduate of Perm State University Law Faculty. Worked as procurator of the town of Perm and of Khabarovsk Kray. People's Deputy of Russia for Khabarovsk National-Territorial constituency. Appointed 1991 Procurator General of the Russian Federation. Married. Son, 15 years. Hobby: playing sports."

Karaulov begins the interview by asking if Stepankov feels he is the "butcher in chief" of Russia as the Russian newspapers say. Stepankov explains that his position is to administer the law of the land, even if that law included capital punishment. He states that any violation of the law has to be dealt with according to the law, regardless of any political aspect to any case. He explains that it is no longer a crime to stand up and say "down with the government" as people did at the well-known meeting on Manezh Square in Moscow—the law states that calls for violent overthrow of the government violate the law. Stepankov defends the use of security

cameras and recordings by both television companies and individuals as evidence of breaches of the law at demonstrations. Karaulov then asks: "Our telephones—are they tapped today?"

Stepankov replies: "You know, every time I'm asked this I always recall the earlier words of Vladimir Aleksandrovich Kryuchkov himself, who said: everything we do, we do with the authorization of the procurator. Hearing that kind of thing, I always recall that after over 15 years of working in bodies of the procuracy, almost all of my time as a procurator being involved as procurator of a rayon, kray, or so on, I never gave a single authorization for that kind of thing. It is only now that we have an amendment to the criminal, procedural legislation that the procurator has acquired that right. So we bear the responsibility and do sign such decrees on telephone tapping. This relates to instances in which a criminal case has been instituted, when this case is being investigated, and this kind of telephone tapping can only apply to the accused, to the suspect. That happens. Otherwise, I think that a law should soon be signed by the president, approved by the Supreme Soviet, on operational detective work, which for the first time in our actual lives, brings this covert, secret activity by the law enforcement bodies, first and foremost the Security Ministry and Ministry of Internal Affairs, within the framework of the law. Hence, once there is this law, all operational detective work will come under the supervision of the procurator, too. This is a new field of activity for us. Formerly, our procurators in the rayons and towns generally heard things, knew, suspected or suchlike.... I have a biography of work on uncovering and investigating crimes—there have been situations in which an agent, again, with the consent of the militia, met me and gave me an instruction in some situation or another to conduct myself..."

Karaulov interrupts: "An agent of the militia?"

Stepankov answers: "Yes, it was their man, an agent—nobody conceals their work, they exist, they will exist and did formerly, too."

Karaulov asks: "You're not opening up the KGB archives on this?" Stepankov explains, "Well, first these archives are not mine. This is a question to ask the minister for security, what are the criteria. But I think there should be a certain level of secrecy, in this work, too. This is an inherent part of any state, and one cannot whip up a stir over this today. We are required to conduct an active battle against corruption and organized crime, but at the same time we are not given the arsenal that has long been used, say, in the West to very great effect. You do it, but you cannot do it. That's not compatible: if we are talking about combating this, then I think the combating can only be offensive, and offensive means we should have the weapons, not defensive, but offensive."

Asked if he was not worried by the events in Moscow on 23 February—police clashes with public at demonstration—Stepankov says any such clashes were out of the ordinary, and the Moscow authorities have to make sure that things never reach extremes. However, he says: "I think you cannot expect humaneness from the army, from the internal troops, from the Special Purpose Militia Detachments, any special humaneness when carrying out an order they have been given and will carry out. We should not. Because they are going to carry out the order with the means they have been given. You cannot pull teeth without pain, that's what usually happens, and we pull it out. At the moment, it is very painful, but as yet nobody has thought of another way. That's how it is. If we involve the army in our social issues, politically and economically, then we cannot say that it should do everything smoothly and fine without any victims or wounded or whatever; you often cannot avoid that. So I think that both the side holding the meeting and the side which is obliged to ensure that the meeting takes place within the appropriate conditions—our legislation has now changed on holding these—have to think about that."

Asked if he had ever been moved by the sight of the poor elderly in Moscow to consider initiating legal proceedings against a government which failed to ensure the social welfare of the elderly, Stepankov reiterates his support for "resorting to punitive measures only in extreme cases" and giving the economic law a chance to work in society.

Asked if he had been personally shocked by any case involving any level of authority he had come across since he became procurator general, Stepankov talks about the moral impact of every case, whether involving the chairman of the KGB or the chairman of a collective farm. "I have worked for many years in this field, probably—and I don't think it dangerous—I have become tolerant of human weakness and human sin. And if I'm suddenly filled with hatred, filled with hostility toward a person who has committed a crime, I'd stop working as an investigator."

Karaulov asks: "How much CPSU money went abroad?" Stepankov replies: "I think that if you are counting the official money which was handed over, over 10 years this was more than $200 million. Almost every year over the past 10 years an estimate has been confirmed of $20 million, and this was distributed among parties and political movements." Karaulov follows up: "Are you going to locate the money abroad?" Stepankov continues: "We have found it, because we have found documents; there are witnessed statements confirming it, there are even people who were entrusted with this money, who handed it on, there are receipts. I have no particular illusions that we will find this money and return it to Russia. We are, anyway, looking for more than that money. Because the money went where the party sent it, it went on newspapers, the last election campaign, there are probably villas somewhere, too, some people living very nicely. I think that this income went also to Western leaders. I am saying this while the

Western mass media are conducting a debate about this. Leaders of a number of parties are being directly accused."

Karaulov interjects: "But Gus Hall denies that he took money from Brezhnev and then from Gorbachev..." Stepankov interrupts with: "I think it's useless to deny it; among the more recent documents I have familiarized myself with and have here on my desk relate to the CPSU monies which went to Gus Hall." He adds, "Here's a letter from him. Which camera should I show it to? To any one, right. Here's Gus Hall's signature, he asks for his party, the Communist Party of America to be given aid in the form of $2 million. And here's a receipt for it, dated March 19, 1988. Gus Hall signed that he had received $3 million. There are reports that all this was done—the State Security Committee reported it. And here's a receipt from one year later, 18 March, almost a year to the day, for $2 million." Video shows Stepankov taking a file of papers from his desk and holding the two papers mentioned in front of the camera, with the signature clearly visible. He continues, "So the money did go out, and it has to be said straight out that there was no particular fuss about it. Aid from one party to another, aid from one political and social movement to another, is in no way a crime in Russia or in the West, or anywhere. There can be a crime only over the means of transfer of the money—after all, the money was received in various countries and kept in different ways—if tax has to be paid there, declarations made and suchlike. If there is some kind of infringement then they are answerable for that over there according to their law."

He sums up: "We are pursuing one aim. Were state funds spent on providing material aid to other parties? The dollars we got for our oil and wanted to go toward health care, public education, and agriculture—did the party throw it out while benefiting from its undivided power?"

Karaulov asks, "You won't be trying our party leaders?"

Stepankov says, "Today we are carrying out an investigation and an audit, which is being concluded, on where we draw the line. If this is money from party dues and from the operations of party organs, the publishing houses and so on, then this is their earned income, and they decided to share it with other parties. There's no crime in that, and we won't be prosecuting. But if we find that they had their hands in the state's pocket, in the state budget, and took money from there and gave it out because of their ideological position to another country, here, I think, there is a question of accountability. That's how it is."

Stepankov confirms that he and his investigators do get threatening letters, but that this was a fact of life and the situation was under control. Their work is not affected by threats. Karaulov follows up with the question, "What about Yeltsin? Are you afraid of Boris Nikolayevich? As a person who could remove you from your job?"

Stepankov says, "Well, first of all, he does not have that right, because the Constitution says—and probably for the first time this has been put into practice—that the Supreme Soviet, and then the Congress, appoints and confirms the procurator general and the same procedure is used to dismiss him. So we have several posts—the chairman of the Supreme Soviet and his deputies who are confined to legislative power, the chairman of the Supreme Court, the Higher Court of Arbitration, and the procurator general, who have a considerably higher degree of protection than ministers, of course. I have a working relationship with Boris Nikolayevich. We don't meet that often because, of course, of his heavy workload, and there has not been a single case of pressure from him, of influence, of attempts to influence one decision or another. I always say, and I think that you can trust my sincerity, because having come up through the procuracy I do know what pressure is, from the party, from local soviet bodies, I have experienced all that for myself. There is none of that here."

Stepankov then explains his view that the formation of the CIS had been carried out legally, that it was open to some interpretation, but "in the situation, the most correct legal basis had been chosen to attempt to unite what has fallen apart."

Karaulov asks, "Is it legal?" Stepankov replies: "I think so." Karaulov pushes: "You think so, or yes, Valentin Georgiyevich?" Stepankov repeats: "I think so."

Karaulov and Stepankov go on to discuss the illegality of the Congress of USSR People's Deputies, Stepankov saying that these people were not a registered movement and no longer have any status in the law of the land. Officers from the procuracy had done their duty by warning the participants of the illegality of their organization—the USSR Supreme Soviet cannot be revived.

Stepankov then turns to dealing with speculation on the new conditions of transfer to a market economy and explains how criminal speculation differed nowadays, when buying stock and selling it for profit is legitimate market activity.

Karaulov raises the case of Oleg Popkov, director of the Astrakhan Philharmonia, who was tried and acquitted of fraud last year. Stepankov reiterates his commitment to sticking to the letter of the law and says that he had been prosecuted over specific facts, and that one can only go through the legal system. Stepankov denies that there is a free-for-all in the law and outlines the difficult conditions for the militia, the procuracy, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the courts, while the old laws of the former USSR have not been repealed and the new Russian laws are taking shape as society develops. The poor remuneration for law workers is no incentive, and young people are not applying to join the profession. Despite all this, the prosecution rate is high even by West European standards.

Asked about the actual prosecution rate for mafia cases, Stepankov talks about the procuracy's responsibility for dealing with bribe cases: "Last year, the court dealt with more than 1,000 bribe-takers, among them people of

varying status—major leaders, local soviet workers, and deputies." Asked how many deputies, he says, "fortunately, not very many." He declines to give details of current cases, but recalls a "recent" case where judges and lawyers had taken bribes, without giving details. Militia corruption "is a problem today, it remains. I would call it a network system of corruption in the law enforcement bodies, including the militia, but we are dealing with this directly, including where militia officers are concerned." He speaks of the procurator's duty both to protect the militia and to make them strictly accountable before the law. "Last year, more than 500 militia officers underwent criminal prosecution for abuse of their official posts, relating to their service."

Karaulov asks why journalists are being refused access to the Matrosskaya Tishina jail, where coup plotters are detained. "You let Tanya Mitkova in to see Yazov, but you did not let me in. Why? I'm offended." Stepankov explained that Mitkova was allowed in to film so that viewers could see the conditions of detention there, to deal with rumors that those involved in the coup were being beaten and poorly fed. Interviews by reporters were not being allowed because the case is sub judice and to prevent public opinion from judging them before the courts can reach a verdict. "We are doing everything possible to bring the case to court," he says, "and I think there should be a court, and it should be public, not closed. I am in a position today to say that there are no super-secrets there requiring that this case should be classified."

Karaulov asks who is trying to prevent the case from coming to court. Stepankov replied "All in all, those who think like this—let's resolve this affair by political means. When you are asking about names—nobody. Not Yeltsin, not Khasbulatov, not members of the government, or of the Supreme Soviet, there has been no such suggestion." When you read that kind of thing in the papers, it is mainly elderly people. Stepankov says that once a case was in the hands of the law, "it is not politics then, but in the criminal sphere, assessed by the court."

There was a great deal of material to be assimilated before a trial, and some people were clearly in less of a hurry than others to reach court: "Some of those who have been arrested are in no hurry to stand before the court, hoping, perhaps, for a change in the political situation," he says.

Karaulov refers to the point of view that the case of the State Committee for the State of Emergency [SCSE] was not that serious, because the coup was against the defunct Soviet Union, not against Russia, so the prisoners should be released because a different law and constitution prevailed at the time. Stepankov explains: "We have weighed this situation up with the investigators, discussed it with lawyers and theoreticians, academic lawyers. On the basis of the evidence that we have on the case, we have come to the conclusion that when the SCSE, having isolated the USSR president, removed him, and effectively kept him in detention, and having taken for themselves powers held personally not by Yanayev as vice president or Lukyanov as speaker of the Supreme Soviet or Pavlov as prime minister—people often talk about that, too, what power they had, whether they had these powers or not. Having come together in the SCSE, they took for themselves powers which none of them individually had. We recall the documents of the SCSE in which they proclaimed—in their first document—that all power in its entirety in the USSR belonged to the SCSE. And that's not so. At that time, Russia had its own president, elected by the people, its own parliament, elected by the people, and this was effectively an attempt against Russian authorities, too. Moreover, we have seen that a plan had been drawn up for the removal of the president [of Russia] and that attempts were planned that included the seizure of the White House, where the president and a number of deputies were. We, therefore, consider this to have been a crime against Russia, too. It was committed on Russian territory, and with the collapse of the USSR, we today have no grounds to close this criminal case."

Stepankov confirms that Gorbachev had been warned by an investigator to be available for questioning in the first half of April in Russia. "This is because members of the Politburo of the former CPSU Central Committee were being interrogated about the party monies, and it was the turn of Mikhail Sergeyevich to be asked certain questions. He does not have to get approval for his trips with us, but we have a schedule for the investigation, phases of the investigation. So, when we know he has gone abroad and where he is planning to go, the investigator has warned him to be available on those days."

Asked what he personally thinks of Gorbachev, Stepankov replies: "In the main, I think him a very able politician, a person who has left an enormous imprint on the development of our state. I think that he has been, at all stages of his work—and I can talk about this now—he was tempted and prompted to do things, to go back to some kind of methods of force, to depart from the democratic transformations which he initiated. How all that happened, by what means, one could talk about that, but it is a different issue. What I would like to note is that he did not yield to that temptation, to try to suppress anything harshly. I think that any major event has to be appraised with the passage of time, with the passage of the years. I think that history will assess him both negatively and positively. At the same time, in contact with him, I think he is a most charming man, and you can be charmed by him very quickly."

Karaulov asks if Stepankov fell under this charm. Stepankov replies that in an hour and a half of questioning, he had been aware of the charm.

Asked if he was aware of any qualities in Yeltsin he found worrying for a president, Stepankov opts to differentiate between personal qualities and those required of a president, saying, "I think that no president, whether it is Yeltsin or anyone else, should be impetuous in any decision, and I think that in some individual

decrees from this president, this can be detected. I do fear that." He goes on to say that Yeltsin did listen to other people's views and was capable of weighing things up and being flexible. "I would say, on the basis of my contacts with him, that this is not a man aspiring to some kind of dictatorial manner, to attempt to use a dictator's way of suppressing representative power or any other power." He notes that in the present extreme situation there was more chance of error than ever before in the country.

Karaulov asks: "Do you find it easy to get on with Burbulis?" Stepankov says: "Despite his television image, when he's conducting official meetings and talks, when talking face to face he's much less prone to such learned expressions and so forth. In that respect, he's easy to get on with." Karaulov continues: "Do you always understand what he's trying to say, what he means?"

Stepankov responds: "When we're in the situation that I was just talking about, I understand him easily." Karaulov asks again: "And when he's on television?" Stepankov replies: "Here I think he can be excessively professorial, and it's not always easy to work out what he was getting at."

Asked if he had a strong hand as procurator, Stepankov says, "Let's say that when I have to make a decision, it doesn't shake."

Karaulov asks: "I know that you sent Rutskoy, Travkin, and Gavriil Popov a note, what's the right word, a letter, a notice, yes, saying that they should cease to combine more than one post. Is that so?" Stepankov explains: "Yes, that's so, but I wouldn't make a big deal of it, taking it out of context. We, the bodies of the procuracy, are implementing one of the first decisions of the First Congress of People's Deputies of Russia, which prohibits the combining of political posts and posts in the state bodies of power and administration on the territory of Russia." He says some of the media had tried to say this was another campaign by the procuracy against Communists, but stresses this was not the case at all. This work would be widened, because it is very common for people in state posts to be engaged in commercial activities, too.

Karaulov asks which posts people like Popov and Stankevich should choose. Stepankov says firmly that it was for them to decide.

Asked if he approved of commercial activities by public officials, Stepankov says there would soon be a law on state service regulating outside business interests. He says it was too early to speak of being defeated in a war against a new nomenklatura; the law was a matter of principle, and he will stand firm to the end.

Gross National Product To Drop 12 Percent

OW0305094392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0913 GMT 03 May 92

[Text] Moscow, May 3 KYODO—Russia's gross national product (GNP) is likely to dwindle 12 percent in calendar 1992 due to a stalled economic reform drive, according to an internal government report obtained Sunday [3 May] by KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

The report forecasts Russia's annual output of goods and services will show a double-digit decline for the second consecutive year despite the decontrolled prices aimed at introducing a free market economy.

The report, submitted to First Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar, predicts the GNP will plunge to 1,255 billion rubles from 1,420 billion rubles in 1991 on the basis of the GNP data for the January-March first quarter of this year.

The expected lackluster performance is attributable to the remaining monopoly by state-run enterprises and the malfunctioning market economy which replaced the centrally controlled system, the report says.

In particular, the output of consumer goods is expected to drop by 13 percent and that of food by 18 percent from the previous year, it says.

The bleak outlook mirrors the government's view that not much of the military industry will be converted to civilian production as planned, Russian watchers said.

In the energy field, coal production is expected to stay almost unchanged from 1991. Oil output will likely decrease 14 percent to 397 million tons [as received] mainly because of aging facilities.

While noting production could pick up in the summer, the report forecasts economic growth in Russia will continue to be held in check for years to come due to the delay in introducing technology and furnishing social infrastructure, as well as the regional economic gap.

Law on Minimum Wage Increases Issued

PM0105153592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 May 92 p 1

[Law No. 2704-1 of the Russian Federation "On Raising the Minimum Wage," signed by Russian President B. Yeltsin and dated the Kremlin, Moscow, 21 April 1992]

[Text] Article 1. The minimum wage at organizations and establishments funded from budgetary sources shall be raised in the second quarter of 1992 to 900 rubles per month.

Other enterprises, organizations, and establishments will introduce the minimum wage set in Section 1 as of 1 June 1992, as they find their own funds for these purposes.

The minimum wage does not include additional payments, allowances, bonuses, and other incentive payments.

Article 2. Article 1 of the RSFSR Law "On Raising the Minimum Wage" and Article 2 of the Law of the Russian Federation "On Early Introduction of the RSFSR Law 'On State Pensions in the RSFSR'" shall be considered invalid.

Article 3. This law shall come into force 1 May 1992.

[Signed] Russian President B. Yeltsin
[Dated] The Kremlin, Moscow, 21 April 1992

Dual Subordination of Troops Seen as Problem

LD0505060692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 4 May 92

[Commentary by T. Adoshina; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Sixth Congress of People's Deputies was a turning point for the military policy of the Russian authorities. It has officially been declared that the troops from the former USSR republics have been transferred to Russia's jurisdiction. However, these forces, although declared Russian, are still subordinate to the chief command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

The dual subordination further complicates the already ambiguous status of the military units in the zones of the inter-ethnic conflicts. The Azerbaijan information agency TURAN has reported recently on an agreement allegedly reached between the deputy chief commander of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, General Grachev, and the Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense on the transfer of military units deployed on the territory of the republic to Azerbaijan jurisdiction.

At the same time, according to information from the independent agency NEGA, 450 Russian flags were delivered to Azerbaijan to be hoisted over the military cantonments of the republic. Both these reports contradict each other and both testify to the fact that the Russian state still does not have an integral military policy of its own and that the sight of Russian arms will continue to provoke the governments of neighboring states for some time to come.

Status of Troops in Conflicts Examined

LD0505055592 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 4 May 92

[Commentary by correspondent O. Vlasenko; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Russia's decision to set up its own army and to transfer to its jurisdiction a number of military formations in areas of interethnic conflicts has been a long-awaited political act for servicemen. However, in practice, little has changed in the everyday life of servicemen and their families. Just as before, they are defenseless in the face of local situations. Just as before, they can be threatened, and the members of their families can be taken hostage. Today, they frequently hear the hurtful word invader addressed at them. One has to ask for what reason should our soldiers risk their lives and the safety of their families? Whose interests are they called upon to defend? Where is the guarantee that law is on their side?

It turns out that it is not sufficient to take the troops under one's jurisdiction. Many questions remain open. What is the status of our troops deployed in hot spots? Has it been agreed upon with the governments of the independent states? What guarantees are there of the rights of servicemen after they are placed under the jurisdiction of Russia?

Until Russia has a precise military doctrine, until a radical decision has been adopted on key issues, it will not be managed to remove the problems in the near future. Chaos, lack of rights, indefiniteness will be preserved, and people will again perish.

And we have lost quite a few anyway. According to statistics in April this year, 15,000 people have died in internal conflicts [no time period specified], more than in the entire period of the Afghan war. [commentary over video showing servicemen standing guard, training, their quarters, and a fly by]

'New Shoots' Spring From Defense Enterprises

PM0105083992 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Apr 92 p 2

[Report by Anatoliy Pokrovskiy and Igor Saltykov under the "Day by Day 28-29" rubric: "Spring Shoots of the Military-Industrial Complex"]

[Text] It seems that the spring sunshine has caused enterprises in the military-industrial complex, which were almost killed off by financial frosts, to start producing new shoots. Having listened to a great deal of criticism during this time—occasionally fair, but mostly ill-qualified—defense industry workers have realized that they can expect no favors from outside benefactors and that they have to take conversion into their own hands. It was precisely this idea that underlay the establishment of the League of Defense Enterprises.

"Our organization is neither political nor commercial in character," League President Aleksey Nikolayevich Shulunov, general director of the P.S. Pleshakov Science and Production Association, says. "We are a social organization. The league supports the Russian Government's economic reforms and understands the need to lower defense expenditure. This is precisely the reason why we are prepared to convert our production."

And here is the particularly important point: The league is not hoping for government investments. An indispensable condition of the economic stabilization of defense enterprises is complete freedom to form their own organizational and economic structures and various forms of

ownership. Including the right to export weapons, military hardware, and experimental design work. In line with government licenses and quotas, of course.

Here the Military-Industrial Investment Company is prepared to lend support to the league and other such organizations. Its task is to use shares to accumulate financial resources and then channel these into "conversion" of the defense industry. Primarily to enterprises that are technically and morally ready for conversion. In short, the aim is to produce if not butter, then at least churns in place of guns.

'Tens of Thousands' Desert Military

LD0105100392 Moscow TeleradioKompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 24 Apr 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The number of servicemen who deserted their units without permission is estimated at tens of thousands. No one can give the exact figure because units who do not wish to hang out their dirty laundry conceal a lot of cases of desertion. Anatoliy Alekseyev, chairman of the committee on the affairs of servicemen and members of their families attached to the Russian president, stated this at a news conference in Moscow today.

Foreign Affairs Editor on Regional Issues

OW0505064092 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1800 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Studio interview with A.B. Pankin, deputy editor in chief of the journal MEZHDUNARODNAYA ZHIZN, by Sergey Goryachev; from the Utro program—live]

[Text] [Goryachev] The Utro program is on the air. Our guest in the studio is Aleksey Borisovich Pankin, deputy editor in chief of the journal MEZHDUNARODNAYA ZHIZN. You can see a copy of this journal on your screen. This issue is devoted to the topic: The South of Russia in the Politics and Economy of the State. The question immediately arises, why has MEZHDUNARODNAYA ZHIZN taken up what to some extent are really internal issues?

[Pankin] Well, first of all, any foreign policy is made at home and quite often home for foreign policy was Moscow, in the departments which made that policy. Very often even the people who made this policy did not think and did not consider or try to predict the repercussions it would have in this big country, which is far from being simply Moscow.

We began our journal several years ago. We undertook an entire research program related to the study of the influence of what is happening in the world and in our foreign policy on our country, and we understood that quite often everything was not as simple as it seemed, and in fact not as simple as it looked from abroad where our country is also seen only as Moscow.

[Goryachev] Why did you begin with the South of Russia?

[Pankin] It was by chance. We found very strong and interesting partners down there and so coopertion developed which then turned into personal ties.

[Goryachev] Very well then, let us attempt to answer the question: What is the role of the South of Russia in the policy and economy of the state? What did you manage to find?

[Pankin] Well, it is constantly changing and now, after the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the formation of a sovereign and independent Russia, it has practically grown before our eyes. , From a traditional backwater this region has grown into a border region in which Ukraine lies on the one side and the Northern Caucasus mountain region on the other. Besides all of this is happening in a completely sudden and very complex way.

For example yesterday the relations between Donbass and Rostov were very close and unique, whereas today they are in separate states. Today even the migration of fish down the Don River into the Azov Sea turns into an international problem, a foreign policy issue. From Azov City the fish goes to the Ukraine.

[Goryachev] Well, this is probably not a situation to which the people, primarily the people who live there in the South of Russia, are accustomed to?

[Pankin] You know, in fact they are accustomed to this situation, because relationships there took shape over centuries and the people know how to deal with one another and somehow they find ways to maintain contacts. It is much worse when big politics interferes in this, when these customary ties break down and really turn into international problems and at times even conflicts. That is why it is very important here that the foreign policy that is pursued from the center be based on the interests of these regions, that it take them into consideration.

Now what happens today? Today, for example, what happens? Moscow holds talks with Turkey on the establishmenbt of a Black Sea economic cooperation zone. But I do not know whether anybody held consultations over this matter in Rostov or Krasnodar, even though these are a Black Sea oblast and kray which it would seem would have the most direct interest in this zone.

[Goryachev] Yes. Now tell me, you have noted the somewhat passive role, as it appears to me, of the South Russian region. It is experiencing the influence of these new factors, factors which lie primarily in the fact that this region has to some extent now become a border region. Now can a region, in this case the South of Russia, somehow actively influence the economy, rather foreign policy?

[Pankin] Well, this is a question which cannot be answered in a word. I think that presently, for instance, the Don and Kuban Cossacks are fighting in the Dniester region, so that the rendering of fraternal assistance has ceased being the exclusive prerogative of the central authorities. That is the first example of a direct influence, a direct affect on foreign policy.

If we talk about an active influence, well then first of all the very contacts and cooperation that our journal—which generally also represents the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs—has established with this region attests to a search for mutual interests and means that not only we in Moscow are attempting to expand our base, but the people there are also attempting to acquire a certain voice. They want to be heard both in Moscow and naturally abroad.

Our journal has foreign readers who are fairly influential insofar as they are professional people dealing with the Soviet Union. So in this I also see one of the examples of an active role. And I hope that this all goes on in a peaceful and constructive way, because, say, often... [clarifies thought] for example, in order to make himself heard Governor Fedorov from Sakhalin had to get embroiled several times in fairly serious conflicts with the Moscow government. We are trying to preempt these situations, to avoid such conflicts.

[Goryachev] Very well, you are presenting a rather unusual case today, regions and their influence on foreign policy. There must be some lessons that can already be drawn from your research, from your attempts, and your new understanding of this situation?

[Pankin] I think that the main lesson, both for us in Moscow and for our international partners in general, lies in the fact that our country is more than just Moscow. This must simply be understood. When undertaking any foreign policy action it must be very clearly understood what repercussions it may have on various regions of Russia. Otherwise matters may be worse for us, as we can see today.

[Goryachev] Russia in turn should to a greater extent take into consideration the interests of the regions.

[Pankin] Naturally, because the regions are in fact Russia.

[Goryachev] And this is already being taken into consideration, as far as I can tell.

[Pankin] I think so.

[Goryachev] Thank you very much. That was Aleksey Borisovich Pankin, deputy editor in chief of the journal MEZHDUNARODNAYA ZHIZN who was a guest of our Utro program.

News Director Claims KGB-Style Eviction

MK0105165092 Moscow KOMMERSANT in Russian No 17, 20-27 Apr 92 p 28

[Report by Valeriy Stolnikov: "Night Raid on YEZHEDNEVNAYA GLASNOST. KGB Appears to Sergey Grigoryants"]

[Text] On the night of 20-21 April the "Akant" cooperative evicted the news agency YEZHEDNEVNAYA GLASNOST [Daily Glasnost] from a house on Ostozhenka. The agency's director, Sergey Grigoryants, claims that he took a beating in the process. Militia reports contain no mention of the incident.

The independent news agency YEZHEDNEVNAYA GLASNOST was established in Moscow in 1988. It is part of the "Glasnost" Foundation.

Fifty-year-old Sergey Grigoryants is a veteran of the human rights movement and political samizdat. He served prison terms 1975-1980 (anti-Soviet agitation and speculating in pictures) and 1983-1987 (anti-Soviet agitation).

According to Grigoryants's story, the agency's eviction with the threatened use of weapons and violence against the director occurred within the context of "a state security action to create an obstacle for the human rights establishment." Grigoryants told KOMMERSANT's correspondent the details of the action: "They broke down the door, rushed in, and bound and gagged me. Agency staffer Vadim Vostokov was kept at gun point on the second story, to where they carted off the agency's property. On their arrival the militia did not detain the 'raiders'." YEZHEDNEVNAYA GLASNOST's director also reported that in the morning following the raid (0440 hours) he was examined at the Sklifosovskiy Institute, where he obtained certificate No. 13936 concerning his injuries.

According to "Akant" chairman Mikhail Gayster, his people removed Grigoryants's department by peaceful means. In a conversation with KOMMERSANT's correspondent Gayster denied that the former KGB had taken part in the action, or that weapons had been used. The purpose of the action was described by the "Akant" chairman thus: Grigoryants was illegally occupying the cooperative's territory and refused to move peacefully. Then "Akant" peaceably moved YEZHEDNEVNAYA GLASNOST's property from the premises. The only force employed, according to Gayster, consisted of "three of the cooperative's workers holding Grigoryants by the arms—but solely to prevent him hurting himself." According to Gayster's account, Grigoryants is specially distorting the events and inflating the conflict so as to attract to himself the weakened attention of the public.

Medical Workers To Step Up Strike Action

LD0405164992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 4 May 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Now more details about the Russian medical workers' strike action.

The second phase of the strike was due to start today, but according to the central committee of the medical workers' trade union, it has been put off till tomorrow. The unions say that medical workers held rallies during the public holidays in Orenburg, Perm, Rostov-on-Don, Omsk, Tambov, and Belgorod, and decided to continue their campaign. Medical workers in Magadan have also reported their willingness to carry on with the strike.

Patients can only hope that the strike does not escalate to the third phase. If the medics and authorities are unable to agree, all forms of medical assistance will cease to be provided from 10 May. In any event, that was how the issue was framed when the strike began.

The only region where the strike is currently suspended is Buryatia. However, the doctors have not dropped their demands; they want not only pay rises—which are essential—but also resources to supply medicines and equipment to hospitals. Obviously, it will take more than humanitarian aid from abroad to solve the problem. [video shows hospitals, ambulances, medical workers]

Education Ministry Allows Private Schools

LD0205173492 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1500 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] The Russian Education Ministry has decided that, along with state, private individuals and religious and public organizations may run schools in Russia. Privately-owned schools will be expected to develop curriculums of their own and will be financially independent. Private schools were allowed in Russia for the first time in over 70 years. Until now the state enjoyed the monopoly in public education.

Regional Affairs

Ethnic Germans Economic Prospects Established

LD0105205192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1202 GMT 30 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Nikishov and Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Apr—The top political leadership of Russia and the German movement, which represents the interests of almost 2 million Germans from the former USSR, of whom there are more than 800,000 living in Russia, have the political will for a phased restoration of the stateship of this people. This was stated by Valeriy Tishkov, chairman of the State Committee for Ethnic Policy of the Russian Federation, at a briefing held at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs press center today. He provided information on the first session of the Russian-German commission on the problems of the Russian Germans held on 21-23 April, during which the sides initialled a protocol on cooperation between the Goverments of Russia and Germany aimed at the phased restoration of the stateship of the Russian Germans. This document, in the view of V. Tishkov, plays an important role in restoring justice for people repressed by Stalin's regime. The document envisages that in the immediate future a territory will be defined where, taking account of the views of the population of Volgograd and Saratov oblasts, primary national formations—a national okrug and national rayon—will be created.

The protocol provides for financial aid to be given to Russia by Germany for the implementation of a series of important economic projects in order to improve the social conditions of existence of the entire population of these areas, not only the Russian Germans, he stressed. The first projects are to be financed by Germany and will already amount to approximately 100 million German marks this year. The German side intends to continue contributing these sums annually in the future. Moreover, the chairman of the State Ethnic Policy Committee pointed out, this is only state investment and should be followed by private investment. He included in these projects the construction of schools, hospitals, workshops processing agricultural produce, and a series of model farm units.

As the government representative noted, these national formations will be created where there is a considerable German population, "I do not think any percentage should be set here," and in places formerly part of the Autonomous Republic of Volga Germans. The Russian Germans will also be taking part in this process through the most authoritative leaders.

Answering questions from correspondents, V. Tishkov pointed out that the protocol does not specify "any date for the restoration of the Autonomous Republic of Russian Germans." The demographic situation, he said, does not at the moment make it possible to talk about the restoration of autonomy at the level of a republic.

'Resettlers' Needed

LD0205013592 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Report by correspondent V. Budnikov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A protocol was initialed in Bonn last week on cooperation between the governments of Russia and Germany in order to gradually restore the autonomy of the Russian Germans. It envisages mainly economic projects in Volgograd, Saratov, and Samara oblasts.

They will be carried out with regard for the interests of all the local population, not just the Germans.

[Begin Valeriy Tishkov recording, minister of the Russian Federation, chairman of the State Committee for Nationalities Policy] It means the establishment of a whole series of model private farms. If the idea gets at least a little way off the ground, we will set up 200 such private farms in each oblast. Then will come the construction of residential buildings and settlements. [end recording]

[Budnikov] German statehood will be restored on two conditions: first, if there is success in changing the negative attitude of the local population and their leaders; second, if there are a sufficient number of resettlers of German origin from all the CIS states. But problems might arise with the latter condition, since a significant proportion of the Germans want to emigrate. Nevertheless, the Russian and German Governments believe that everything must be done to give the Russian Germans their chance. [video shows interview with Tishkov; demonstrating Germans]

Tatarstan's Likhachev Discusses Foreign Links

LD0105180792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Report by correspondent I. Latypov on Tatarstan's foreign links, including recorded interview with Tatarstan Vice President V.N. Likhachev by I. Latypov on 25 April; place not given; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Journalists have recently been following ever more closely reports from Tatarstan and are analyzing speeches by the republic's president. In an interview published in today's MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA, entitled Forever Free and Forever with Russia, Mintimir Shaymiyev says that Tatarstan has reciprocal treaties with all regions of Russia and countries of the CIS. It is also known that the republic's government has been instructed to elaborate by 1 June provisions on Tatarstan's missions in CIS countries and abroad. This obviously raises the question of a confederative system for Russia. Today, Tatarstan Vice President Likhachev gave an interview to our correspondent.

[Latypov] Thus far, Tatarstan has concluded agreements and treaties on economic and sociocultural matters with Russia, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, and other CIS countries. It also has contacts with many other countries, including the United States, France, Austria, Japan, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia. There are also agreements with a number of international organizations. [video shows Latypov sitting in an office with Likhachev]

[Begin recording] [Latypov] Special organizational structures are needed to implement the commitment which has been undertaken. Vasiliy Nikolayevich, is this how the president's decree is to be understood.

[Likhachev] This may be cultural centers, information bureaus, bureaus for communications with foreign partners, and finally trade and economic missions. A great deal has been said clearly and specifically about setting up the latter in the treaties and agreements which the republic of Tatarstan today has with the majority of countries which belong to the CIS and also with many of our foreign partners. The number of these partners is being increased. We have them in America, Japan, Australia and on the European continent. Countries of the Near and Middle East are showing great interest in cooperation with Tatarstan. These missions are being set up in order to implement these agreements and to guarantee our foreign policy priorities.

The question of foreign policy activity will have to be closely coordinated with the Russian Foreign Ministry. [end recording]

Tatarstan Ethnic Conflict Reported on May Day

OW0105133592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1232 GMT 1 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On May Day Tatarstan's trade unions staged a meeting that gathered 3,000 people in the capital Kazan. They demanded that the government and parliament increase minimum wages to 1000 roubles. They also called for fixing moderate prices for basic goods, foods and medicines, for denationalizing state property in the interests of labor staffs, and the like.

The meeting was attended by spokesmen for Tatarstan's multinational movement "Concord", Kazan workers' union, Tatarstan's communists, Kazan alliance of anarchists, regional branch of the Popular Workers' Union and organizations of Russian nationalists.

When the meeting ended supporters of independence for Tatarstan attacked members of the local branch of the Slav National Assembly who were distributing nationalist publications. The attackers sought to tear down the Assembly's monarchist flag and double-headed eagle emblem, but the police stopped them.

The chief of Kazan's public order department Lt.-Colonel Zavdat Yusupov told IF [INTERFAX] that the conflict took place on ethnic grounds, but had no serious consequences.

Movement Urges Referendum on Power Plants

OW0405163292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 4 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The anti-nuclear movement of Tatarstan is collecting signatures to an appeal for an all-Russia referendum on the gradual closure of all nuclear power stations. The chairman of the anti-nuclear movement of Tatarstan Albert Garapov has said that the closure of the

Tatar nuclear power plant project has failed to ease nuclear risks for the people of Tatarstan, because of the proximity of the Balakov and Kalinin nuclear power stations and the "Mayak" industrial association in the Chelyabinsk region.

At the same time the chairman of the ecology commission of the Supreme Soviet of Tatarstan Aleksey Kolesnik believes that the economy will not survive without the nuclear power industry and for that reason it would be impossible to close down all nuclear power stations. The shortage of power supply is no better than the shortage of food, he said. Kolesnik believes it would be far better to seek the closure of those nuclear power plants that have outdated equipment and safety systems.

Moscow's Gas, Electricity, Heating Prices Hiked

PM0305162392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 May 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Viktor Belikov: "Heat And Water in Moscow Homes To Go Up in May"]

[Text] The Moscow government has ratified new charges for gas, electricity, and heating used in industry and municipal services.

Commenting on the decision for IZVESTIYA, B. Rekk, leader of the city government's Energy and Fuel Supply Department, noted that the new prices—which will be brought in after the May holidays—will allow energy workers to make ends meet in their sector's budget. In particular, "Mosenergo" is increasing its electricity charges on average by 300 percent, and its heating charges by almost 200 percent.

[Belikov] How will this affect the cost of the monthly apartment rental paid by Muscovites?

[Rekk] It has been decided to leave electricity tariffs for the population at the level of this year's first quarter—that is, unchanged. In apartments with electric cookers, the price per one kilowatt of electricity will remain at eight kopeks. In apartments with gas cookers, one kilowatt will cost 12 kopeks. There will be no increase in the cost of natural gas either. [Rekk ends]

The cost of hot water and heating supplies is to double. A family of four in a one-room apartment will pay 30.60 rubles [R] for these municipal facilities instead of R15.30. Payment for the use of running water and sewerage facilities in apartment blocks will also double.

Subsidies to bridge the gap between the payments made by Muscovites for the use of gas, electricity, heat, and water, and their actual cost under the new tariffs will be R5 billion a year. These funds are being allocated out of the city budget.

St. Petersburg First Quarter Figures Cited

LD0105132192 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] The results of the development of the economy of St. Petersburg and the Leningrad Oblast over the first quarter have been published today. The phenomena which are characteristic of the Russian Federation's economy as a whole are primarily discernible in trade. The retail trade turnover in the city for comparable goods over the first quarter has gone down by more than 50 percent compared with the same period last year. The amount of the population's general expenditure spent on foodstuffs has increased 11 times over this period. As for the oblast's agricultural production, the production of meat, milk and eggs has gone down sharply. In St. Petersburg, the volume of industrial products manufactured has gone down by more than 7 billion rubles.

Krasnoyarsk Checks Nuclear Tests' Claims

OW0305123292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1150 GMT 3 May 92

["Were Nuclear Tests Run in Krasnoyarsk Territory?"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the 1960s and 1970s tests of nuclear weapons were run in the region of the river Pelyatka, said Vladimir Vengo, Chairman of the Ust-Yeniseysk regional council. Roman Solntsev, state secretary of the territorial administration, announced that according to his sources, about 10 neutron charges were blasted under the pretext of geological prospecting, emitting strong radiation.

The worried deputies of the Ust-Yeniseysk region asked the territorial council to send in a commission to measure the radiation levels.

If this information is confirmed, representatives of the territorial administration do not rule out the possibility of lodging a suit worth billions of rubles against the Ministry for Atomic Power Engineering.

Chelyabinsk Militia Chief Discusses Congress

PM3004135192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Apr 92 First Edition p 1

[Interview with Russian People's Deputy Valeriy Pavlovich Pustovoy by own correspondent Anatoliy Usoltsev: "Time to Choose: Veche or Parliament"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] Chelyabinsk—Russian People's Deputy Valeriy Pavlovich Pustovoy heads one of the Urals' biggest city internal affairs administrations—the Chelyabinsk Militia. On his return from the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies, Valeriy Pavlovich was once again thrown head-first into the everyday problems of militia life, which are such that not a day passes without a serious crime in the million-strong city. But despite all

the measures undertaken, the crime rate in Chelyabinsk has a tendency to rise constantly. What is more, Chelyabinsk is not an exception in the Federation.

The recent congress, its decisions, and its results continue to worry People's Deputy Valeriy Pustovoy.

[Pustovoy] When evaluating the congress' work, I subscribe to the view of those analysts who talk about a score draw. The right-wing opposition failed to oust the government and turn back the tide of reform. But I am convinced that the congress debates in many ways opened the eyes of both the president and Gaydar's team. In his concluding speech, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin admitted that adjustments to the policy chosen by the government are essential and a cadres reshuffle in the executive authorities is needed. But overall, once again I was persuaded that the huge gathering of people's deputies which is the congress makes for an unproductive organ. It is more reminiscent of a veche than a working parliament. It is conducive to meetings but not to decision-making....

[Usoltsev] However, the congress did adopt several decisions. For instance, the peasant has once again been deprived of his right to freely own and manage land....

[Pustovoy] Unfortunately, this is so. But it seems there is a positive aspect here, too: Now it is quite clear to people exactly who is who. It is enough to glance over the list of people's deputies who voted against buying and selling land, which is published in ARGUMENTY I FAKTY. A revealing bunch! Likewise, here in Chelyabinsk at the first oblast congress of people's deputies of all levels, which was held recently, it was the former party-state nomenklatura who opposed "free land." But what is really curious is that these people vote against buying and selling land while at the same time actively "grabbing" the land for themselves. Here and there incidents emerge of collective farm chairmen, state farm directors, or rayon administration functionaries registering hundreds of hectares of arable land in their name and that of their relations. The bad land goes to the farmers, and they keep the black earth for themselves. Why, one wonders, are they hanging on to their nomenklatura posts? Clearly they are awaiting the moment when they will be able to sell the land or mortgage it at the bank to earn enormous interest. At worst, there might be some point in leasing it.

[Usoltsev] Sociological research has shown that the Russian population is disappointed in their elected representatives. The congress rating fell sharply in the eyes of the electorate. I got the impression that representatives of the various factions at the congress were sometimes at each other's throats purely for the sake of annoying the opposition.

[Pustovoy] I also focused on the fact that certain deputies were more worried about their personal image than the fate of the country. There are some who come to the microphone dozens of times, wander past running television cameras in the foyer as if by accident, and are prepared to give interviews to any old publication.

Did the electorate really delegate me to parliament so that I could demonstrate my own political tastes and partialities there? Is it not more important to spend time at the congress or in the Supreme Soviet pondering the country's ailing economy and the social hardships of the long-suffering Russian peoples? Ensuring that Chelyabinsk's industrial plants survive, that there are higher wages for teachers, doctors, cultural workers. That entrepreneurs increase the number of jobs—that there are fewer unemployed, vagrants, and members of the dangerous lumpen criminal class—it is in the solution of these problems that I see my role as a Russian people's deputy.

Patriotic Forces Formed in Yekaterinburg

LD0305173892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1639 GMT 3 May 92

[Text] Yekaterinburg—A constituent meeting of the Inter-Party Coalition of Patriotic Forces was held in the city of Yekaterinburg (formerly Sverdlovsk) on May 3. The Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia was the main initiator of forming the coalition. Representatives of 12 political parties and movements from the cities Yekaterinburg and Alapayevsk participated in the meeting. Four of them, the Yekaterinburg Union of Cooperators, the Liberal-Democratic Party, the Conservative Party and the Russian National Union, entered the coalition immediately. Other participants, such as the Russian Communist Workers' Party and the Yekaterinburg Cossack Regiment, decided to postpone entry until majority opinion is known. According to Stanislav Nekrasov, candidate of science (philosophy) and advisor to the inter-party coalition, the coalition was formed in order to unite all patriotic forces and win the next elections. According to some local politicians, members of the newly-formed coalition have a number of disagreements on their attitude to the authorities and on the legal basis for this coalition. Patriots and communists also differ in their opinions concerning private property. Members of the coalition plan to hold a constituent conference in early July in order to determine all members of the coalition, find an appropriate name for it and adopt the coalition rules.

International Affairs

Kravchuk Arrives in Turkey on 2-Day Visit

LD0305173592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1658 GMT 3 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Feoktistov]

[Text] Ankara, 3 May (TASS)—Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk arrived in Turkey today on a two-day visit. He will hold talks in Ankara with Husamettin Cindoruk, plenipotentiary of the Turkish president, and Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel. They will discuss ways of developing relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and are exchanging views on a number of international and regional problems.

Turkish President Turgut Ozal will be unable to meet Kravchuk, as he is currently in the United States, where he underwent surgery on Saturday.

Holds Talks With Demirel

LD0405090592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0838 GMT 4 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Feoktistov]

[Text] Ankara, May 4—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, who is here on an official visit, met Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel this morning. They exchanged opinions on how to develop bilateral and mutually beneficial cooperation. The meeting was also attended by the Ukrainian and Turkish foreign ministers: Anatoliy Zlenko and Hikmet Cetin. There will also be Ukrainian-Turkish talks today on developing the friendship and cooperation between the two countries. The local press reports that the agenda contains a large number of international problems, in particular the situations in the Middle East and the Transcaucasus

Ends Visit, Leaves for U.S.

LD0405185192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1755 GMT 4 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Feoktistov]

[Text] Ankara May 4 TASS—President of Ukraine, Leonid Kravchuk, who is on an official visit to Turkey, had a meeting with the Turkish prime minister, Suleyman Demirel. Both sides reaffirmed their strict adherence to the policy of peace and stability, the independent development of sovereign states, all-round broadening and strengthening of friendly relations between the Ukrainian and the Turkish people. The exchange of views took place in an atmosphere of trustfulness.

Official talks between the Ukrainian delegation and the leadership of Turkey were also held today. A treaty of friendship and goodneighbourlihood [as received], a protocol on trade and econoimic development, an agreement on establishement of air links between the two countries, on fishing, and on cooperation in the spheres of agriculture and cattle-breeding were also signed.

President Kravchuk left Turkey by air for the U.S. today evening.

U.S. Envoy in Kiev Discusses U.S. Aid Program

LD0105225292 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Report by correspondent Mykola Marynenko on a 28 April news conference in Kiev by John Gunderson, U.S. charge d'affaires ad interim in Ukraine]

[Text] It seems to me that this news conference for my Ukrainian and foreign colleagues was a kind of continuation of President Kravchuk's morning meeting with journalists. On both occasions, the summit meeting in Washington at the beginning of May was discussed.

Mr. Gunderson noted in particular on this subject: President Kravchuk noted today that on 6 May he will have a three-hour conversation with President Bush. We are paying great attention to this conversation, and are already describing it as unprecedented. As you know, President Kravchuk also plans to meet with officials of the U.S. Congress and with U.S. businessmen. In our opinion, Gunderson continued, this is very important because for over 75 years of the Soviet Union's history very many U.S. organizations did not even imagine that Ukraine exists.

We expect that this visit will result in the signing of agreements between Ukraine and the United States. We think that one will be a trade agreement which will give Ukraine the status of a most favored nation. Certainly, an agreement on forming a peace corps program in Ukraine and a program of investments by interested U.S. organizations will be discussed. We also hope that an agreement on paying taxes, technical aid, and diplomatic rights and obligations will be signed during the visit. The last document I mentioned will allow Ukrainian officials and also ordinary Ukrainians to move freely in the United States, and will also allow Americans to be here in Ukraine, John Gunderson stressed.

When, specific U.S. aid programs to Ukraine were mentioned at today's news conference, Mr. Gunderson stressed the following: What I want to say now is that the United States will develop its relations with Ukraine as an equal partner. The fact that very many delegations of U.S. congressmen are visiting Ukraine emphasizes that this state is one of the most important countries which [words indistinct] of Europe.

As for specific U.S. aid programs to Ukraine, John Gunderson said they have been devised not only for Ukraine but also for the whole [word indistinct].

At the news conference, it was noted that the United States shares Ukraine's aspiration to become independent and democratic. That is why it supports the economic reforms aimed at creating the market economy. Although the implementation of these reforms is a matter for the Ukrainian state, the United States is prepared to share its knowledge and to help achieve changes as soon as possible.

Special mention was made of the following aid programs:

The aid program of the International Development Agency envisages aid at the governmental level. For the implementation of that program, the U.S. President and the Congress have allotted $50 million for the remaining months of 1992; over $90 million are planned for the following year. The programs of the International Development Agency have been worked out with the objective of supporting the free market economic system and democracy, and providing for most basic humanitarian needs, carrying out the conversion, assisting investments in bilateral trade, and improving the efficiency of Ukraine's (?power engineering).

The U.S. Congress program aims to reduce the Soviet nuclear threat. Within the framework of that program, $400 million have been assigned which can be used for liquidating the nuclear weapons on the territory of the former Soviet Union. In addition, considerable sums of money have been set aside for the establishment in the CIS states of scientific centers which will work on the problems of disarmament and other closely-related problems. (?Of this sum), $10 million have been assigned specifically for a scientific center in Kiev.

As for IMF programs, the United States supports at the international level Ukraine's bid for membership. That membership will allow Ukraine to receive considerable international aid, including a stabilization fund.

UK Satisfied With Conventional Forces Doctrine

LD0205213692 Kiev UKRINFORM Diplomatic Information Service in Russian 1514 GMT 29 Apr 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Yefim Shvartsman]

[Excerpts] Odessa, 29 April—A group of military specialists of the United Kingdom is returning home convinced of the defensive character of the military doctrine of Ukraine, which can be traced both in the approach of this sovereign state to the imminent ratification of the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe and in the preparations for the following comprehensive fulfillment of the clauses of the document. The delegation spent two days in the Odessa military district where it studied the stage of the readiness of the armed forces of Ukraine for this summer's international inspection of Ukraine's fulfillment of the clauses of the treaty. [passage omitted]

Summing up the results of the visit of British military specialists, Lt-Col Valeriy Molchanov, representative of the Chief Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, stressed that the sovereign Ukraine, in accordance with its defensive military doctrine, confirmed the adherence to the clauses of the statement of the USSR Government of 14 June 1991 on conventional arms and machinery of the categories limited by the treaty and stationed in the forces of the coast guard, the marine infantry and the strategic rocket troops.

After the treaty comes into effect, said Lt.-Col. V. Molchanov, Ukraine will coordinate with the member-states its efforts in the issues of fulfillment of the treaty and the documents connected with it in order to provide regional, national and collective security in Europe. [passage omitted]

Measures Taken for Refugees From Dniester Region

LD0505053492 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Russian 0900 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] The shipbuilding town on the southern Bug is quite far from the Dniester region, but the repercussions of these tragic events have reached even there. The first refugees have been officially registered in Nikolayev. On instructions from a representative of the president of Ukraine, a working group has been set up to coordinate work connected with providing the necessary assistance to people who are arriving from the inter-ethnic conflict zone.

Victims receive a one-time payment equivalent to the minimum monthly wage for each member of the family. They are being helped to find work, and assistance is being given in placing children in pre-school institutions, schools, boarding schools, and children's homes. Those who cannot stay with relatives are received at the Chayka sanatorium, which belongs to the Nikolayev Zarya Association.

Entry Visas Provide Income for Foreign Ministry

AU0105155692 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs earns between $30,000 and $40,000 every week. The consular administration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs earns this sum of money for issuing entrance visas in Kiev's Boryspil Airport. This was stated in an interview with the press by Petro Sardachuk, the consular administration's leader.

He also pointed out that presently entrance visas to Ukraine are issued at our embassy in Germany. It is expected that in the near future businessmen, private individuals, and tourists will be able to register documents for entering Ukraine in Ukrainian missions in Poland, Hungary, the United States, Canada, Austria, and Switzerland.

Spain Opening $250 Million Credit Line

LD0205024392 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] The foreign minister of Spain, Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, pointed out in his interview for a correspondent of the HOLOS UKRAINY newspaper today that Spain opens a credit line for Ukraine amounting to $250 million. He added that, in the near future, our republic will be visited by the minister of economy of Spain with the aim of discussing opportunities for mutual economic cooperation. The minister stressed that being prepared now are a few bilateral agreements in the sphere of health protection, tourism, cultural exchanges, as well as a treaty on friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

National Affairs

Demonstration in Simferopol Supports General

OW0405181792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1747 GMT 4 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press center of the republican movement of the Crimea says traffic in one of Simferopol's main streets was frustrated for four hours on Monday [4 May]. The barricade was put up by local people demonstrating in support of General Valeriy Kuznetsov, the commander of a corps, dismissed by the Ukrainian Defence Ministry.

General Kuznetsov said he was ready to take the oath of allegiance to Ukraine. However, asked by the qualification commission whether he would accept the order to "go to war with Russia" he replied "NO". The reply resulted in his dismissal.

Residents and a group of people's deputies of the Crimea have been "holding the fort" at the headquarters of the corps. The commander of the Odessa Military District Lieutenant-General Vitaliy Radetsky visited the headquarters on Monday. Asked by the deputies whether he would agree to take part in a war against Russia he said he would if Russia infringed on the sovereignty of Ukraine.

As he left the headquarters, the military district commander tried to take the commander of the corps with him by force. However, people's deputies prevented that.

When General Radetsky left, residents followed requests from the law-makers and took the barricade apart to give passage to transport. However, they left a picket in front of the headquarters. The commander's supporters are going to guard him until his future is discussed by the Ukrainian parliament on Tuesday.

Socialists Protest Rukh Activities in Vinnitsa

LD0305205492 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 3 May 92

[Text] The Presidium of the Vinnitsa Oblast Socialist Party of Ukraine came out against the claims of the region's Rukh [Ukraine People's Movement for Perestroyka] organization to a monopoly in political leadership in the system of presidential administration. Without having support among the widest section of the population Rukh is trying to delegate its commissars to new power structures, presenting this as a guarantee of democracy. Such actions can lead only to increasing tension in the society and to yet another spiral of confrontation between various political forces. The socialists proposed to create a political council under the presidential representative in the oblast which would function constantly and have as its members representatives of all political parties, movements, and public organizations.

Rukh Leader on Immediate Withdrawal From CIS

OW0405123592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1157 GMT 4 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vyacheslav Chernovil, co-chairman of the Rukh [Ukraine People's Movement for Perestroyka] movement, spoke in favour of Ukraine's immediate withdrawal from the CIS. He believes that Ukraine's membership in the CIS slows down Ukraine's development as an independent state, particularly in the economic sphere.

Member of the State Duma (Assembly) Professor Vladimir Chernyak believes that Ukraine cannot terminate economic cooperation with Russia, Byelarus, Kazakhstan and other CIS members.

It would be naive to think, he said, that Ukraine will be able to re-orient its economy to Western Europe quickly.

Vladimir Chernyak noted, however, that Ukraine should resist Russia's economic dictate.

Republican Party Urges Radical Military Reform

LD0505061692 Kiev UKRINFORM Diplomatic Information Service in Russian 1431 GMT 4 May 92

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Nikolai Zaika]

[Text] Kiev, 4 May—The program of the Ukrainian Republican Party [URP], which was adopted at its first Congress here, includes a demand for the implementation of radical military reform. In particular, it envisages handing over military units with all equipment, weapons, communications systems, training grounds, residential accommodation, naval forces, bases, and aerodromes belonging to the armed forces of the former

USSR situated on the territory of Ukraine to the government of the republic. Recruitment to the Ukrainian armed forces would be on a voluntary professional basis.

The URP favors the complete elimination of nuclear weapons in Ukraine simultaneous to the disarming of other nuclear countries. However, in light of attempts by neighboring states to make territorial claims on Ukraine, the URP considers it premature to give up nuclear weapons.

It states that the Black Sea Fleet must be handed over to Ukrainian ownership.

The URP resolutely rejects the artificial imposition on Ukraine of the status of a neutral state with token armed forces and calls for the immediate establishment of active armed forces, capable of reliably holding in check possible aggressive encroachments by other states.

Security Official on Functions, Achievements

LD0105175592 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Interview with Valeryy Malikov, deputy head of the Ukrainian Security Service, by unidentified station correspondent, date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] What does the security service do now? It was the subject matter at the conference which took place not so long ago in Kiev where the Ukraine Security Service reported on the results of its activities over the past 6 months. Our correspondent invited Valeryy Malikov, deputy head of the Security Service and leader of the capital's directorate, for a conversation.

[Unidentified correspondent] Valeryy Vasylyovych, the Ukraine Security Service has at last its own law. In short, what does this legal act mean to you? What will the new Ukrainian special service be like as compared to the liquidated KGB, and what is it like now?

[Malikov] First of all I have to say that the Ukraine Security Service as a special law protection body differs in principle from its predecessor in its structure, in its staff—which, by the way, has been essentially renewed—and in its authorities. That is why the (?objective) of the service is formed from the present main task of restoring and building a national statehood of Ukraine. I want to stress that the legal guarantees of lawfulness in the activities of our bodies have been considerably reinforced and a new, more effective mechanism of control over lawfulness has been created.

Second, the law on the service proceeds from the fact that in a democratic and law-governed Ukraine which we are now building, the interests of a person should be put first. The law on the effective search activities by which we also abide is based on the same principles. Unlike the KGB, the service carries out no total ideological or political observation of citizens. On the contrary, the law envisages certain guarantees of no special service monitoring of party or group interests.

In accordance with the defined functions, the security bodies are there to protect the constitutional regime of Ukraine, its national interests, and also the rights and freedoms of citizens. Second, to assist in building up social, economic, and defense programs in an independent democratic state.

[Correspondent] What has the directorate done in particular toward the realization of those tasks? For example, in the economic sphere?

[Malikov] One can say that with our participation several attempts to afflict losses on the state in the area of external economic links have been averted. For example, one company in Kiev tried to sign an unfavorable contract on the construction of cottages. In reality, it was a well designed affair which aimed at outsiders receiving profits at the expense of the Ukrainian side. We have also managed to avert the signing of four agreements with suspicious foreign partners, who tried to sell equipment which was of poor quality, incomplete, or morally outdated, to Kiev enterprizes, and also to avoid ecologically harmful technologies being placed in Kiev oblast. Jointly with the militia we recently averted an attempt to illegaly export a large consignment of consumer goods from Ukraine to the sum of 7 million rubles. Several pieces of important scientific and technical information have been acquired which will assist the development of technologies and production at our prominent enterprises.

[Correspondent] Valeryy Vasylyovych, as is known, military counter-espionage has appeared in the structure of the Security Service and [word indistinct] in the capital's directorate. What are its tasks, and what has already been achieved in this still short period of activities?

[Malikov] The main task of the military counter-espionage members is guaranteeing external and internal security within the units and formations of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry stationed in the Kiev region. External security is combating [word indistinct], terrorism, and diversions. Internal security is protecting military sites from organized crime, fighting corruption, illegal commercial activities, and other crimes placed by the law in the competence of the Security Service. Recently 12 attempts by civilians to steal or illegally acquire weapons or ammunition from units of the Kiev region have been discovered and averted. A search for lost weapons is also being carried out, and recently weapons which disappeared were returned to one of the units on the oblast's territory.

The functions of the counter-espionage subdivisions also include the prevention of extraordinary events which use personnel, military machinery, and weapons aimed at harming the interests of Ukraine. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views Domestic Policy Tasks

AU0205163392 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 23 Apr 92 p 2

[Commentary by Roman Koval: "On Rights and Duties"]

[Text] Logic prompts: When a state is being built, one should rather talk about the duties of its builders than about their rights. Those who are not willing to build a state and, moreover, are hampering our efforts, may hardly count on their political and other rights being protected. If the destroyer shows persistence in his destructive activity and tries, by way of political struggle, to place his own rights above the Ukrainian people's right to have their own state, then this selfish individual and his "comrades" will have to be reminded about the danger of internment or at least physical violence. Their actions are aimed at undermining statehood. Even in civilized societies, such actions are severely punished.

Those politically indifferent non-Ukrainians who have not assimilated the idea of Ukrainian statehood but who do not resist our historical undertakings may count on a tolerant attitude. We will explain to them patiently: First we must create a state that will elaborate laws, and then rights will be granted that will be protected by these laws.

Ukrainian democratic liberals [demoliberaly], proclaiming the priority of human rights over the rights of the Ukrainian nation and of the rights of a civil society over the rights of the state, are, in fact, provoking escalation of the whims [zabahanky] of individual persons and justifying the spread of selfish tendencies in Ukraine, thereby hampering the building of the Ukrainian state.

Representatives of other peoples demand that Ukrainian democratic liberals provide a theoretical justification of the "legitimacy" of their demands to live as they wish and not as the laws of the Ukrainian state require. That is why they demand that the Russian language be given the status of a state language, that "forced Ukrainization" [preceding two words in Russian], and that Ukraine be dismembered....

Russians like talking about "equal" rights and not about equal duties before the state, in which they have the honor to live. Why? Because they are not interested in rebuilding the Ukrainian state. In the USSR, the Russians were the "main" people, and in Ukraine they will not play this role! Consequently, why should we take into account complexes of the "big brother" and take the demands regarding some special rights of the Russian people seriously? All the more so, since the majority of them resist, actively or passively, our state-building initiatives.

It might suffice to conduct a sociological opinion poll among the Russian population of any oblast with just a single question: "Does Ukraine need northeastern borders?" to be able to realize that an absolute majority of Russians do not want Ukraine to become a state.

Only those persons (irrespective of nationality) who are loyal to the Ukrainian state can have full rights in Ukraine. However, those who oppose Ukrainian independence and who, publicly or secretly, swore allegiance to another state, cannot count on a tolerant attitude toward themselves.

Protectionist policy must not only be pursued regarding the Ukrainian people, but also regarding those non-Ukrainians who strengthen our state in the military, economic, political, scientific, and other spheres.

We will repeatedly state: Let us first build a state, and then this state will protect our rights.

Trade Union Set Up at Shipbuilding Plant

LD0205020292 Kiev UKRINFORM Diplomatic Information Service in Russian 1514 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Anatoliy Kuznetsov]

[Summary] Nikolayev, 29 Apr—Workers of the production association of the Black Sea Shipbuilding Plant [Chernomorskiy sudostroitelnyy zavod] will go to the May Day demonstration under the flags of two trade unions: a new trade union, the independent trade union "Solidarnost," has been set up in parallel with the already existing one. It objective is to protect workers' rights and its size, not known to the source, is expected to grow if conditions of workers worsen.

Moldova

Shooting Continues in Dniester Region

LD0505101292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0920 GMT 5 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, 5 May—Moldovan police positions were fired upon last night in the area of the town of Dubossary by Dniester region guardsmen. The police opened retaliatory fire. A bridge over the Dniester River near the village of Gura-Bykuluy in Novyye Aneny Rayon was blown up. This was told to an ITAR-TASS correspondent at the Moldovan Ministry of Internal Affairs press center. In its turn, the press bureau of the Dniester region accused the Moldovan police of violating the truce. A report from Tiraspol says that the positions of the guardsmen in the Dubossary area were fired upon by the police. A session of the coordinating commission on finding a peaceful settlement to the conflict in the Dniester Region is to be held in the Moldovan town of Bendery today. Members of the mixed commission of representatives of Moldova, Russia, Romania, and Ukraine, established following the Chisinau meeting of the foreign ministers, on peaceful resolution of the crisis in the region will be taking part.

First Riflemen Regiment Takes Oath of Allegiance

AU0305174292 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1700 GMT 3 May 92

[Gabriel Ionescu report from Chisinau]

[Excerpt] The first regiment of riflemen took its oath of allegiance to the Republic of Moldova today in Chisinau. The ceremony was attended by President Mircea Snegur, the minister of interior, and the mayor of Chisinau Municipality, who congratulated the commanders and soldiers and emphasized the importance of their enrollment in the troops of the Ministry of Interior at this time of disturbances on the left bank of the Dniester River. In his speech, the regiment commander said that part of the young riflemen finished their military training at Tirgu Jiu, in Romania. Moldovan President Mircea Snegur called on those present to prove their high abilities and toughness in the struggle to enhance the independence and preserve the integrity of Moldova.

Esteemed listeners, the Press Bureau of the Ministry of Interior announced that relative calm prevailed in the conflict area last night. Some shots were heard in Tighina, but the members of the observers commission in that sector could not pinpoint to the guilty ones. [passage omitted]

Army Chief Warns Against Draft Evasion

LD0505131292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1230 GMT 5 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, 5 May—General Tudor Dabizha, military commissar of Moldova, warned of the consequences of evading the draft to Moldova's Armed Forces. He addressed young people on national radio in connection with the call-up to the Moldovan Army, scheduled to begin on 6 May, and directed his warning in particular to draftees from the Dniester region and areas with large Gagauz communities. All persons of the appropriate age throughout the republic are liable for the call-up. The general called on them "not to fall for the provocations" of local politicians who advocate a boycott of the call-up. He also said that under Moldovan legislation evasion of service in the Moldovan national army carries a sentence of between six months' and five years' deprivation of liberty.

Decree Issued To Normalize Cash Circulation

LD0105171692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0731 GMT 1 May 92

[By MOLDOVA-PRES correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Chisinau, 1 May—A decree on urgent measures to normalize the cash circulation has been signed by Moldovan President Mircea Snegur. In accordance with the document, enterprises, institutions, and organizations, irrespective of their organizational and legal form, are obliged to keep their funds in banking institutions, and through them to clear their obligations with other enterprises by book entries, have the right to keep in their cash offices cash above the set limits for no more than three days and only for paying wages, and paying social insurance benefits, grants, and pensions. These measures are being taken with a view to normalizing the cash circulation so as to avoid interruptions in money payments to the population.

Druc Nominated Romanian Presidential Candidate

OW0505102792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0951 GMT 5 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The former prime-minister of Moldova, now the leader of the opposition Christian Democratic Popular Front (formerly the Popular Front) Mircea Druc has reportedly been nominated candidate in the May presidential elections in Romania. The nomination took place at a joint congress of the Green parties of Romania and Moldova in Bucharest.

Kazakhstan

Prime Minister Tereshchenko Visits Germany

OW0505105592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0952 GMT 5 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [4 May] the Prime-Minister of Kazakhstan Sergey Tereshchenko left for Germany at the head of a government delegation. During the visit he is to meet the vice-chancellor, foreign minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and other officials as well as managers of leading companies and banks. The main purpose of the visit is the discussion of a list of priority projects made by the leadership of Kazakhstan.

According to sources in the cabinet, on May 8-9 the prime-minister will attend a conference on new effective ways of East-West economic interaction.

Strategic Force Officers Show 'Dissatisfaction'

LD0105171192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2011 GMT 28 Apr 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] According to the NEGA agency, some officers serving in the strategic forces in Kazakhstan are displaying dissatisfaction in connection with the delays in paying them their money. In particular, about 50 officers in one air squadron refused to service aircraft until they receive their March pay. By the way, the officers have another wish. They would like to know who these strategic forces are serving today.

Presidential Decree on Privatization Summarized

LD0205093692 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 2300 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] In order to accelerate market reforms and increase the scale and regulation of the processes of denationalization and privatization, the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan has issued a decree which states that the Republic of Kazakhstan's State Committee for State Property, organs of state government, and heads of local administrations are to step up their work to privatize state enterprises and organizations involved in material production, ensuring that there is widespread and concerned involvement in them on the part of work collectives and preserving all forms of privatization envisaged by the legislation of the Republic.

It has been established that direct preparations for and the implementation of privatization in enterprises and organizations are to be implemented according to the programs and plans of the Republic of Kazakhstan's State Committee for State Property and the economically independent privatization bureau which it is establishing to act as an intermediary between vendor and buyer.

The decree also establishes the operating procedure to be followed while state enterprises are being switched to other forms of ownership. It has been decided that during the interim period in the formation of a market economy it is not permissible for people who are not citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan to become private owners of state enterprises and organizations.

The full text of the presidential decree will be published in the republican press.

Health Minister Resigns; Replacement Named

LD0105170292 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] By decree of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Vasiliy Nikolayevich Devyatkov has been appointed health minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan. By decree of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Aksultan Amanbayevich Amanbayev has been released from his post of health minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan in connection with his resignation.

PRC Ambassador Presents Credentials to Nazarbayev

LD0205015192 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Zhang Deguang, Chinese ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in Kazakhstan, today presented his credentials to Nursultan Abishevich Nazarbayev. Zhang Deguang conveyed best wishes for success to the president and people of Kazakhstan in creating a new socioeconomic system during the official ceremony on behalf of the leadership of his country. He gave an assurance that China will actively promote the further consolidation of diverse relations with its good and reliable neighbor.

During a conversation that took place afterwards, Nazarbayev stressed that he places a high value on traditions of friendship and mutual understanding which exist between the peoples of the two countries and will make every effort to ensure that their cooperation develops further. The leadership of the republic will take care to establish favorable conditions for the diplomats to do fruitful work.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Oman

LD0105131692 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in 2300 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Suleymenov, the republic's minister of foreign affairs, received Hamdan al-Hamdan, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Sultanate of Oman in the Russian Federation at the latter's request yesterday. The question of cooperation in the area of

agriculture and in the processing industry and of granting credit to Kazakhstan was examined and it was noted with satisfaction that foreign investments in the republic are reliably protected by laws. The Kazakhstan side showed interest in the work of the regional economic council of the Persian Gulf countries and aid in the area of health.

At the end of the talks a joint communique was signed establishing diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and the Sultanate of Oman.

Tajikistan

Supreme Soviet Issues Statements 3 May

To Dushanbe Demonstrators

LD0405133892 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0800 GMT 4 May 92

[Supreme Soviet appeal to demonstrators gathered in Shakhidon Square, Dushanbe; adopted 3 May 1992]

[Text] Dear participants of the gathering! The 14th session of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan informs you that you are deliberately or unknowingly, unfortunately, taking part in [word indistinct] activities. For many days and nights you have been surrounding the government building. You are not allowing [words indistinct] anyone to leave. You do not (?agree) with the sending of a group of internal (?forces) for the protection of the government. You are obstructing deliveries of food.

It arises from this that the government cannot do constructive work. Such a situation will result in the further worsening of the already weak economy. The Supreme Soviet, in appealing to you with sincerity, requests that with a gesture of good will you end as soon as possible your surrounding of the government building. If you agree to our request the government is ready to forgive you for your sins. Should you disagree, the government will consider all measures available for normalizing the situation and will not consider itself responsible for any undesirable consequences.

On Dushanbe Rallies, Islam

LD0405122192 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0800 GMT 4 May 92

[Statement issued on 3 May by the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan]

[Text] Lately, some of the leaders of the forces opposed to the government and to the legal parliament of Tajikistan, with the (?aim of) discrediting those who gathered in Ozodi Square in the capital of the republic to support the constitutional regime and to protest the pressures of the opposition, have been distorting the truth and spreading false and dangerous rumors. They claim that the participants of the gatherings are against the holy religion of Islam and the shariat, and were drawn to the square under the influence of a totalitarian person and by the Communists.

To achieve their goals they make use of (?unaccepted) norms of political struggle and mislead the world public. They requested foreign countries, particularly Islamic countries, to refrain from cooperating with the government of Tajikistan and to provide no material assistance to this government.

In line with these falsifications the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan makes this statement:

Those who gathered in Ozodi Square—who are mainly (?believers) of Islam—after the 13th session of the Supreme Soviet, which under the serious pressure of the opposition adopted certain decrees, went to the square in an effort to defend the truth, justice and democracy.

Those who are the representatives of oblasts and various cities and rayons demanded that the use of force, violations of the law, and threats to the legal government and parliament on the territory of the republic by the opposition be ended, and that a calm atmosphere in the life of the republic, work, and creative efforts be established.

The Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan condemns all forms of dangerous rumors aimed at further complicating the situation and weakening (?trust) in our (?sincere) relations with foreign countries, particularly with Muslim countries, and emphasizes that these rumors have nothing in common with the truth.

Those who gathered in Ozodi Square are not in any way against the holy religion of Islam. On the contrary, all day they read the Holy Koran and its verses, and pray to Almighty God for [word indistinct] the path of justice, national unity and unity of the people. In this connection the Supreme Soviet of the republic, reiterating the loyalty of the sovereign government of Tajikistan to the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, [word indistinct] Paris and other authoritative international acts, states with sincerity that on the territory of the republic the hopes of the democratic and law-based society and (word indistinct) are being implemented fully.

The 14th statement issued by the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan

[Dated] 3 May, 1992, City of Dushanbe

To Nation, Dushanbe Citizens

LD0405140492 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0800 GMT 4 May 92

[Appeal to the nation adopted by the Tajikistan Supreme Soviet in Dushanbe; date not given]

[Text] Dear fellow countrymen! Dear fathers and mothers! Esteemed brothers and sisters!

The very tense political situation of our country (?obliges) us, the participants in the 14th session of the

Supreme Soviet of the Republic Tajikistan, to appeal to you, our dear and patient people.

Today, in our dear Tajikistan [word indistinct] of separation is being witnessed. Today, as is known to everyone, we are bringing upon Tajikistan the danger of fragmentation. Today, the [word indistinct] statesmen, with the use of the holy religion of Islam, are dividing the people into complete and incomplete Muslims and are creating unrest among them. They think that by inflaming the [word indistinct] they will achieve their goals, but with full confidence it can be said that they are mistaken.

We have seen many such ideas of divide and rule in the past, and the people have tasted their [word indistinct] on many occasions. We fully believe that [word indistinct] will not be deceived again and will not follow the instigators.

Today, the time has come for the destiny of sovereign Tajikistan to be taken care of by its legal owner, the people of the country. If you want our beloved and dear Tajikistan to return to the khanates of the past, do not remain indifferent. If you do not want the country to be ripped to pieces by the narrow-mindedness and limited thinking of a number of people, do not remain indifferent.

Dear people of the city of Dushanbe! We appeal to you in these important moments. Dushanbe is your home and ours. Do not allow it to be changed into a center for political games. Defend it! At such times as these every resident of Tajikistan should decide which side he will take: To stand with those who want the unity and wholeness of their country, or [word indistinct] who under the mask of deceptive slogans will tear our country apart. The choice is yours.

We have only one request. Do not (?change). History will not forgive this. Those who have passed away will not forgive us. Today's generation [word indistinct] and the future generation may not forgive.

This appeal was adopted at the 14th session of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan.

To Republic's Electorate

LD0405163892 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0800 GMT 4 May 92

[Appeal to the electorate of the Republic of Tajikistan, adopted by the Tajik Supreme Soviet on 3 May 1992 at its 14th session]

[Text] Dear electors: You all know very well that the situation in the republic is very tense. (?Confrontation) is gaining momentum. [Words indistinct] is getting complicated. The many thousand people at the gathering are getting more [word indistinct]. It is possible to say without any exaggeration that [word indistinct] of (?fragmentation) is [word indistinct].

The 14th session of the Tajik Supreme Soviet has started its work in difficult times. The only aim of this session is to thoroughly study and analyze the tense situation and find ways out of this [word indistinct] situation.

Unfortunately, however, the following representatives failed to attend the session, and they have no excuse for this failure: [name indistinct] (?Afghanov), from the 183d constituency of [name indistinct] District; Kurbonali Khakimovich Azimov, from the 74th constituency of (?Kofarnikhon) District; (?Sodiryan) Begidzhonov, from the 194th constituency of (?Bakhtar) District; Tokhirdzhon Dzhaboruv, from the 124th constituency of [name indistinct] District; (?Makhmurod) Karimov, from the 75th constituency of (?Kofarnikhon) District; Rakhim Karimov, from the 210th constituency of (?Pandzh) District; Akbarturayevich (?Kakhorov), from the 76th constituency of (?Kofarnikhon) District; Muradali Makhmadaliyev, from the 77th constituency of (?Kofarnikhon) District; [name indistinct] Mirkhodzhayev, from the 180th constituency of (?Tabodiyan) District; (?Khudaitullo) Adilov, from the 94th constituency of Isfara District; Asluddin Cokhibnazarov, from the 69th constituency of [name indistinct] District; [name indistinct] Sayedmurod, from the 58th constituency of Faizobad District; Uvaidov Bobokul, from the 39th constituency of Tursunzoda City; Bozori [name indistinct] Khomushov, from the 177th constituency of Kolkhozobod District; Azamatshokh Khudoyiv, from the 192 constituency of Bakhtar District; Boynazar Khudoynazarov, from the 114th constituency of [name indistinct] District; [name indistinct], from the 67th constituency of [name indistinct] District; Boborakhim (?Guldzhonovich) Yusupov, from the (?49th) constituency of Tursunzoda City; Adildzhon Yakubov, from the 65th constituency of (?Nur) District; [name indistinct] Yakubovsharif, from the 49th constituency of [name indistinct] District; (?Atakhodzha) Yatimov, from the 44th constituency of [name indistinct] District.

In our opinion, to fail to participate in the work of the session at such a difficult time can only mean one thing—indifference to the destiny of the people and the republic. As presidential rule has been introduced in the republic, come and rally round the president, who has been elected by all the people, and help free the republic from this serious crisis.

In appealing to you, dear voters, we ask you to insist that your deputies make clear their (?political stance). The most (?unjust) thing of all is to be indifferent and not to take sides. For peoples deputies not to take sides and to be indifferent is even more unjust than this.

Adopted on 3 May 1992, at a meeting of the 14th session of the Tajik Supreme Soviet.

Further on Continuing Rally Events in Dushanbe

Opposition Group Forms 'Guard'

LD0405185292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 4 May 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpts] Of all the alarming news coming in from different towns in the former Union, the most alarming report today probably comes from Tajikistan. [passage omitted]

According to a report by the NEGA agency, the opposing sides are setting up their own fighting formations. In keeping with a presidential decree, special purpose subunits are being formed from among the government supporters.

This afternoon, three vehicles carrying stones were driven up to the Supreme Soviet building. The opposition is continuing to form its own guard. According to some assessments, this guard already numbers more than 20,000. Most of them do not have weapons. The opposition's main demand at present is for the resignation of the president and of the Supreme Soviet chairman, and the setting up of a state council.

The official authorities are not providing information about the situation in the city. Journalists were not permitted to attend the ongoing Supreme Soviet session.

Nabiyev Resumes Negotiations

OW0405174992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1624 GMT 4 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Rakhman Nabiyev has today (May 4) resumed negotiations with opposition leaders. Local journalists believe there were two reasons for the President's decision to continue the dialogue: First, he had to respond to a weekend statement of the Tajik Constitutional Supervision Committee, and, second, he expected the negotiations to rule out the possibility of any events like last night's attempt to seize his residence.

IF's [INTERFAX] note: In its statement published at the weekend, the Constitutional Supervision Committee warns both sides against any violation of law and proposes a kind of round-table discussion with the participation of government figures and opposition members, leaders of various political parties and public organizations, and clergy. The committee insists that the President make more energetic efforts to achieve peace, namely that he make more extensive use of dialogue. The attempt to seize Nabiyev's residence was cut short by OMON [special purpose militia detachment] (the riot police) with no bloodshed.

Experts in Dushanbe think Nabiyev would be unable to stick to a position of strength in his talks with the opposition if he did not [word indistinct] the political power he had built up at the end of April and the beginning of May. Many see today's round of negotiations as his last concession to his opponents before he disbands the rally on Shakhidon Square. According to some well-informed sources, the text of a decision to that effect has already been prepared.

After the parliament almost unanimously approved his proposal that direct six-month presidential rule be introduced in the republic, Nabiyev has unflinchingly been pursuing his line: He has set up a special national guard battalion directly subordinated to him and reinstated Safarali Kenjayev as parliament chairman. Apart from this, he signed several decrees to mitigate the effects of price liberalizaion, eg, he put up the minimum monthly wage to 700 rubles and increased by a factor of 2.5 the salaries of employees at establishments financed from the national budget.

It is probably his increased power that accounted for the rigorous tone of his speech at the pro-government rally on Ozodi Square and his television address. Here are some of the statements he has made over the last few days: "I have been vested with additional powers so that I could make more extensive use of my rights," "Any government should be able to defend itself," "Since we are an independent republic, we have decided that the Qaziat of Tajikistan should separate itself from the Qaziat of Central Asia."

He has been alternating his warnings to the opposition with expressions of gratitude to his supporters and promises of additional measures to raise the population's living standards: "Dear friends, thank you again for coming here [to Ozodi Square] to help achieve justice... I promise to do my best to raise the living standards of our people. May I thank you again and assure you that I will serve my people as long as I live."

Meanwhile the opposition declared it would radicalize its political demands.

IF's note: Chairman of the Democratic Party (DP) Shodmon Yusupov told IF that in case tension mounts, the DP, the Islamic Revival Party (supported by kazi Khodzhi Akbar Turandzhonzoda) are working on a plan of actions. It provides, among other things, for making a common demand that Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev resign and the establishment of "a coalition government capable of taking the republican situation under control." The current republican leaders cannot be on that government, says Yusupov. The leaders of the Democratic Party and other opposition groupings are also prepared to give up participation in the government.

Parliament Criticizes TV Coverage

LD0405212592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2005 GMT 4 May 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The chairman of the Tajikistan State Committee for Television and Radio was criticized at the Tajik parliament session because, instead of covering the events, local television was showing songs and dances.

Obviously, such decisions are not taken by the chairman of the State Committee for Television and Radio.

Decree To End Rally, Make Arrests

LD0505015892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] The IMMA-PRESS agency has learned that Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev has signed a decree on splitting up the rally on Shakhidon Square with the aim of carrying out arrests.

Sub-units of the separate special purpose battalion, set up recently, were put on an enhanced combat readiness.

The opposition leaders are aware of this action. They are engaged in working out countermeasures, IMMA-PRESS reports.

Law on Amendments, Addenda to Constitution

LD0105223392 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] The law of the Republic of Tajikistan on introducing amendments and addenda to the Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan. For the purpose of immediate normalization of the republic's political situation and achieving national accord and unity, overcoming the deep economic and social crisis, and strengthening of constitutional structure, the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan resolves:

The following amendments and addenda be introduced to the Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan:

1. The following should be added to Paragraph 32, Article 99: Temporary introduction of presidential rule in necessary instances.

2. The words "with the approval of relevant soviets of people's deputies" be (?added) to Paragraph 13, Article 120.

[Signed] Rakhman Nabiyev, president of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Supreme Soviet To Investigate Ikramov Arrest

LD0105110992 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 24 Apr 92

["Decision" by Tajik Supreme Soviet commission, issued in Dushanbe; date not given]

[Text] Decision of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan on a commission of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan to investigate the circumstances of the arrest and prosecution of Ikramov, people's deputy of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan resolves:

The Deputies Ethics Commission of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan is instructed to investigate the circumstances of the arrest and prosecution of Ikramov, people's deputy of the Republic of Tajikistan, and report the result of the investigation to a regular session of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan. [Ikramov was a former mayor of Dushanbe arrested on charges of bribe-taking and whose release was demanded by the opposition]

People's Deputies, Karimov, Yakubov and Shafaatov be included in the Deputies Ethics Commission of the Supreme Soviet during the investigation period.

Turkmenistan

Council Warns Georgia of End to Gas Supplies

OW0405125192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1157 GMT 4 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Competent sources in Turkmenistan's Presidential Council inform Interfax that Turkmenistan is going to stop supplying its gas to Georgia. Beginning from 1992, Georgia's debt to Turkmenistan for gas has amounted 6.3 bil. [billion] rubles.

In an official cable addressed to the Georgian government Turkmenistan warns Georgia that it intends to terminate its gas supplies unless Georgia pays its debt by May 4.

Deputy Premier Cited

OW0505110792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0952 GMT 5 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Deputy Prime-Minister of Turkmenistan Nazar Suyunov has told IF [INTERFAX] that the gas industry of his country has received instructions to stop gas supplies to Georgia today. He accounted the decision [as received] to the failure of Georgia to stand by its commitments under the gas deal.

According to Mr. Suyunov, Georgia's debt in the first three months of the year was 3 bn [billion] rubles: 1.73 bn for the gas and 1.3 bn for the transportation.

Under the deal Georgia was supposed to get 5.2 bn cubic meters of gas this year at the price of 870 rubles for one thousand cubic meters (without the cost of transportation). By May 3 Georgia had received over 2 bn cubic meters.

Mr. Suyunov said the interruption of supplies does not amount to pressure: no country can afford to sell for credit. Supplies will resume immediately after Georgia pays its debt.

President Niyazov Wants Separate EC Aid

LD0105173192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1454 GMT 1 May 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Ashkhabad—Turkmenistan wants to be given EC aid, notably credits, separately from other republics of the ex-USSR. During the meeting with EC Commission Vice President Franz Andriessen held in Ashkhabad on April 30 Turkmenistan President Saparmurad Niyazov also said: The fact that Turkmenistan is an independent state calls for EC plans of assistance the former Soviet republics to be changed. A number of local political experts believe that the president's position is the result of his being disillusioned with the CIS and the attitude of the Russian leadership to the Central Asian states. According to some reports, the Turkmen officials are confident that the EC will meet the president's demand, as Mr. Andriessen reaffirmed the community's being seriously interested in the promotion of economic relations with Turkmenistan. Nevertheless, specific forms and methods of the republic's cooperation with the EC Commission will be discussed in the course of subsequent working consultations since Mr. Andriessen was not prepared to decide what kind of aid the EC may render Turkmenistan in the new conditions. A special division on relations with the EC was set up with the republican government by the president's earlier decision. The division is headed by the only Russian in the Turkmen leadership, Vice Premier Valeriy Otchertsov. The main lines of the Turkmen-European cooperation are expected to be the processing industry, power engineering, transport, management, food manufacturing and financial activities.

Presidential Decree Sets Minimum Wage Increase

LD0505082892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] In accordance with a decree issued by Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov, wages of employees in state enterprises and institutions will increase by more than twofold as of 1 July. Pensions will also increase by more than twofold. Social benefits and payments will be increased. The minimum wage or pension in Turkmenistan will be set at 750 rubles as of 1 July. Students will receive an equal sum.

Uzbekistan

Conscripts Not in CIS Armies To Return Home

LD0505095992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] All conscripts from Uzbekistan doing military service in republics which have not joined the CIS or which are setting up their own military forces, will be recalled in mid-May, reports the Uzbekistan Defense Ministry statement broadcast on the republican radio. The returning servicemen will be sent to man the units of the Turkestan Military District or may opt for alternative service. Those who have completed their term will be transferred to the reserve, RIA reports.

Republic Ready To Fulfill CSCE Duties

OW0305123392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1151 GMT 3 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As a full-fledged member of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Uzbekistan will do everything in its power to fulfill the commitments assumed within the framework of the CSCE process, Uzbek Foreign Minister Ubaidullah Abdurrazaqov stated during his talks in Tashkent with a delegation of the U.S. Commission for CSCE.

Head of the delegation John Marescu said that the goal of his mission was "to find out what aid the republic needed to step up its activity within the CSCE, and to help Uzbekistan gain experience in international relations".

Karimov Signs Decree Forming State Oil Concern

LD0405111292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1100 GMT 4 May 92

[By Unidentifed UZA-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Tashkent May 4—Effective development of oil and gas deposits in Uzbekistan, steady supply of the republic's national economy with oil, gas and oil products are the purposes of the Uzbek state concern of the oil and gas industry, "Uzbekneftegas". The decree on its forming was signed by Uzbek President Islam Karimov.

The concern will also have the purpose of coordinating the activity of amalgamations, enterprises and organisations prospecting for oil and gas in Uzbekistan, engaged in extraction, refining and transportation of oil, gas and gas condensate and in the construction of facilities for the oil and gas industry. The state concern "Uzbekneftegas" will be conducting a unified technological policy in this area.

Oil Gusher at Min-Bulak Finally Contained

LD0405171892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] A Mayak correspondent reports that the oil gusher which had been shooting up from under the surface with extreme force for two months at the Min-Bulak oil deposit in Uzbekistan has finally been contained. This means that in the next few days the raw material will start flowing through pipelines to oil refineries. Experts believe that this oil deposit can satisfy about half of Uzbekistan's needs for fuel and lubricants.

Armenia

Ter-Petrosyan Meets With IMF Delegation

NC0505084092 Yerevan Armenia's Radio International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 2 May 92

[Excerpts] President Levon Ter-Petrosyan met with an IMF delegation on 1 May for almost an hour. During the meeting, Donnell Donovan, who is responsible for the IMF's ties with Transcaucasia and Moldova, said that the prevalent opinion in Washington is that Armenia could be the first former Soviet republic to receive substantial assistance from the IMF. [passage omitted]

President Levon Ter-Petrosyan stressed that the government has no alternative but to implement the formulated provisions for socioeconomic development.

The president also spoke in detail on the prospects for a solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh problem and highlighted the need to solve the conflict, which is greatly harming the stabilization of Armenia's economy, through peaceful talks and reciprocal concessions.

Industry Operating at 70% Despite Blockade

LD0305054392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] If news from the pro-Armenian agency is to be believed, this republic has emerged from the state of paralysis brought about by the energy and transport blockade.

In April, according to Armenian Prime Minister Arutyunyan, the republic's industry operated at 70 percent of capacity. In winter, however, as a result of the blockade, virtually the whole of industry was brought to a standstill.

Now, an appreciable replenishment of the budget has started, thanks to which the government is planning on 15 May to carry out a new indexation of the incomes of workers in budgetary institutions and pensioners and to raise them by 40 percent. In this way, the minimum wage in Armenia will amount to 500 rubles.

Economic Crisis, Need for Credits Explained

LD0305174192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1500 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] Armenia is not able on its own to overcome the crisis, transform its industry, and improve its economic system. This was said by the chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet. He stressed that reforms require enormous capital investment, which the international community will provide only if the republic is able to create a firm legislative basis. Here is Armen Dulyan, a correspondent for the SNARK news agency, to describe the state of Armenia's economy:

[Dulyan] The clocks in Armenia will be put forward one hour on 2 May. An official announcement says that the government made this decision because of the acute energy crisis. Armenia's economic situation is indeed still a tense one, given that for months now the republic has in effect been under permanent blockade by Azerbaijan. In the first quarter of the year alone losses have exceeded nine billion rubles [R]. Figures from the republic's statistical directorate show that the national income produced [proizvedennyy natsionalnyy dokhod] for that period was down by almost a half compared with last year. Productivity too declined by almost a half. There are acute food shortages, leading to immediate price hikes at markets and in the private retail sector. A 20-liter can of gasoline now costs drivers R700; a kilogram of butter costs over R200 and a kilogram of cheese more than R100. Meanwhile, the average monthly pay in Armenia stands at around R470.

In an interview published today, Supreme Soviet Chairman Babken Ararktsyan said: Of course pay, pensions, and allowances could be raised and housing could be made available free of charge. But that would be to shift the heavy burden of debts on to the shoulders of future generations. The head of the parliament believes that Armenia is not in a position to overcome the crisis and transform its economic system on its own. Reforms will require large credits, which will be provided only if the republic creates a firm legislative basis.

Even so, literally just a few days ago the parliament failed to endorse the fundamental provisions for socioeconomic development as proposed by the govenment. Delays are also occurring in the passing of other economic and financial bills. And yet there is still hope that matters will start to pick up. At a meeting with President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, an IMF representative Donnell Donovan, said that Armenia could count on being one of the first of the CIS countries to receive tangible aid from international financial organizations.

National Security Council on Border Situation

NC0205100492 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] President Levon Ter-Petrosyan chaired a meeting of the Armenian National Security Council on the evening of 30 April. Defense Minister Vazgen Sargsyan delivered a report on the border situation [words indistinct]. He noted that because of periodic shelling the situation [words indistinct] extremely tense. He informed the meeting about measures being taken to improve the defense of the border regions. [words indistinct] the minister expressed concern about the fact that the work of the local authorities and defense organs are not coordinated sufficiently and this is reducing the effectiveness of the measures being taken. The generally unstable internal situation in border regions is also negatively affecting such measures.

On the Azerbaijani side acting President Yakub Mamedov has introduced presidential rule in all the nearby Azerbaijani regions. Now the Azerbaijani Army might draw up a far more effective plan.

State Minister (Grachik) Akobyan delivered a report on his contacts in the border regions and on his proposals to resolve the situation.

At the suggestion of Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Babken Araktsyan, it was decided that the next session of the Security Council should hear reports from executive authorities on the work carried out in [words indistinct] the earthquake zone and in other fields.

Fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh, Nakhichevan Noted

OW0405163492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 4 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenian sources are reporting heavy fighting close to Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh. There have been casualties on both sides.

The shelling of border villages in Armenia goes on. The heaviest attack was on Monday [4 Monday] on the village of Berd, Taush District. Five civilians were injured.

Azeri Defence Ministry's press center says attacks by Armenians in the Khanlar District of Azerbaijan have left four dead and eight injured.

Another 13 people were injured during the shellings of a number of Azeri villages on the border with Armenia. The Defence Ministry says an attack against the village of Kazanchi, Zangelan District, was beaten back on Sunday [3 May] night.

Reports from the Nakhichevan Autonmous Republic say nine people were injured in last night's shellings of communities in the Sadarak and Sharur Districts from Armenia. In Nakhichevan there is a serious shortage of power supply and medicines.

Recognition of Karabakh Independence Urged

LD0405181692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1705 GMT 4 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 2 May—Nagorno-Karabakh must be recognized as an independent state and regarded as an equal party both to the talks and to the search for ways out of the crisis that has developed in the region. This was stated at a news conference in Yerevan today by Manvel Sarkisyan, the Nagorno-Karabakh authorized representative in Armenia.

According to Sarkisyan, the power system in Karabakh has collapsed over the last four years, and the position of the Nagorno-Karabakh leadership has sometimes been expressed by unqualified people. The voice of Karabakh is still heard very little in Armenia; "no one knows the approaches or points of view of Nagorno-Karabakh, which has now become a state with an independent political line based on the results of a universal referendum."

Manvel Sarkisyan drew journalists' attention to the existence of "fairly serious differences" between the approaches of the Armenian and Nagorno-Karabakh leaderships. In particular, he noted, the Karabakh side cannot accept Yerevan's proposition that Nagorno-Karabakh should remain within Azerbaijan.

Regarding the CSCE's position in the process of settling the crisis in the region, the Nagorno-Karabakh representative in Armenia stated that the CSCE's participation in this process "can only complicate the problem." By calling Nagorno-Karabakh "an interested party," the CSCE representatives "are making pointless our participation" in the Minsk international conference on a Karabakh settlement.

Manvel Sarkisyan was critical about Russia's stance on the Karabakh settlement, noting that "Andrey Kozyrev presents Karabakh merely as an Armenian community, whereas we are a republic." He said that all talks should be conducted with the legal authorities of Nagorno-Karabakh.

After calling for the opening of an Armenian mission in Stepanakert, Manvel Sarkisyan reported the decision by the Nagorno-Karabakh Supreme Soviet Presidium to open Nagorno-Karabakh missions in various countries of the world.

Manvel Sarkisyan is 35 years old. He is a member of the Dashnaktsutyun Party [Armenian Revolutionary Party], which is now the largest faction in the Nagorno-Karabakh parliament since the recent elections.

Rocket Hits Maternity Hospital; Six Killed

LD0305130492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1158 GMT 3 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 3 May—Six people, including two newborn babies, were killed this morning in Stepanakert (Khankendi) as a result of a direct rocket hit on a building serving as a maternity hospital. Overnight and this morning the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh was hit by about 120 rockets from "Grad" batteries and over 120 artillery shells fired from T-12 cannons. Several residents have been wounded, 10 houses have been destroyed, and the entrances to many basements serving as public shelters have been blocked with rubble. Information reaching Yerevan says that Stepanakert is still under fire.

ITAR-TASS was told at the Armenian state directorate for special programs that a 5,000-strong rally was held yesterday in front of the NKR [Nagorno-Karabakh Republic] parliament building. The demonstrators were demanding that the Nagorno-Karabakh leadership take

decisive measures to protect Stepanakert from destruction by Azerbaijan's armed forces.

All day Saturday [2 May] and throughout the night large forces of the Azerbaijani Army launched tank attacks on the Armenian villages of Karachinar and Erkech in the NKR's Shaumyanovskiy rayon. These population centers were simultaneously shelled with "Grad" batteries and heavy artillery. Three people were killed and others injured. It is reported that the onslaught was halted at the cost of great losses on the Armenian side.

Since this morning the rayon center of Gadrut and the Armenian village of Balludzha in Askeranskiy rayon have been under massive artillery fire from the Azerbaijani side. People have been injured.

Azerbaijan

Attacks Noted; 'Temporary' Cease-Fire Reached

NC0405190092 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] The Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense press center disclosed the following on 4 May:

Kazakhskiy Rayon: Kushchu Ayrum, Ashagy Askipara, Dzhafarli, Sarikhly, and Medzhan towns were fired on from Armenia's Noyemberyanskiy Rayon with automatic firearms, machine guns, and artillery units throughout the day on 3 May. Seven people were wounded as a result of the attacks.

Tauzskiy Rayon: Alibeyli and Agdam towns were fired on from the [placenames indistinct] with artillery guns last night. The firing continued until this morning. The Azerbaijan Armed Forces units in the rayon returned the fire and silenced the enemy positions.

Kedabekskiy Rayon: The enemy is massing armored vehicles and armed units in Armenia's Krasnoselskiy and Shamshadinskiy Rayons, which border Kedabekskiy Rayon. An unmarked helicopter took off from Shamshadinskiy Rayon on a reconnaissance mission over Kedabekskiy Rayon at 2000 on 3 May.

Kel'badzharskiy Rayon: Armenian helicopters have resumed their flights to the Karabakh region, flights which violate Azerbaijani airspace. (?Eight) helicopters landed in Armenian-inhabited [name indistinct] town in Agdara Rayon last night.

Zangelanskiy Rayon: Khadzhedler town was fired on from Armenia with automatic firearms and machine guns until 1600 today. The enemy fire was returned.

Terterskiy Rayon: Shots were heard in the towns close to the border with Agdara Rayon from time to time last night.

Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR]: Reports received from the NAR yesterday said that Sadarak and [name indistinct] Rayons were shelled intensively by artillery guns. Information received today said that two people were killed and seven others were wounded in the clashes on 2 May. The Azerbaijan Armed Forces hit an Armenian military MI-8 helicopter.

Militia Lieutenant Colonel D. Mamedov, head of the Akchapa Rayon Internal Affairs Department, called our editorial office to inform us that the Armenian brigands fired on the rayon's towns with tanks, artillery guns, and [words indistinct] during the past few days. [passage indistinct] Talks were held with the Armenian side during the past two days. An agreement has been reached on a temporary cease-fire.

Karabakh Representative Holds News Conference

OW0405125292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1157 GMT 4 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic must be recognized by the world community as a sovereign state. Only then can it start talks on settling the Karabakh conflict, Karabakh's representative in Armenia Manvel Sarkisyan said at a press conference in Yerevan today. Manvel Sarkisyan was appointed to this post on April 20.

"The moment we are recognized," he said, "we'll sit down at the negotiating table without any mediators."

He also said that there are disagreements between the Karabakh leaders and the Armenian authorities over Karabakh's future status. Armenia finds it possible to view Karabakh as part of Azerbaijan "with guarantees", he said. Such an approach is unacceptable, he noted.

He was also skeptical about most of the peace-making efforts made lately to settle the Azeri-Armenian conflict, including those made by the CSCE. He said that the CSCE still stems from the principle of territorial integrity, which in this particular case may cause further bloodshed, and lacks a specific programme of action. Therefore, he did no show any enthusiasm about the forthcoming Minsk conference on Karabakh to be held under the CSCE's aegis.

Speaking about the situation in Nagorno Karabakh, he said that individual regions, including Stepanakert and the Gadrut region, experience a dire shortage of food. He also noted that no sowing campaign was held in Karabakh this year.

Servicemen in Baku Appeal to Yeltsin for Help

PM0105141592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 May 92 p 1

[Correspondent Major S. Knyazkov report: "Emissaries of 295th Division Try To Get a Hearing in High Places"]

[Text] Despite the holidays, our life does not allow us to forget for a minute difficult problems requiring immediate solution. Two officers from the 135th regiment of

the 295th motorized rifle division, stationed in Baku, visited the editorial office yesterday.

According to the officers, the 135th regiment has been on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan for roughly seven months, defending peaceful inhabitants against attacks by Armenian gunmen. Azerbaijani raids on Armenia have been prevented at the same time.

As of January the regiment's outposts were blockaded by Azerbaijani armed formations. They tried to prevent the unit's weapons from being removed from the conflict zone. On the orders of the commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, Commonwealth troops were supposed to leave the Armenian-Azerbaijani border in March 1992. However, the regiment was forgotten, as it were, and left to itself to decide to march to Baku. But unlike the notorious 366th regiment, the 135th regiment's withdrawal was left completely without support. Roads were blockaded by the Azerbaijani side, so the regiment had to leave at its own risk in small groups, without using weapons. The result was that the regiment lost 49 assault rifles, 81 armored vehicles, nine mortars, three howitzers, and plenty of munitions, but people survived.

The attempts to seize weapons continued in Baku. According to officers, 617 firearms, 134 armored vehicles, and 91 automobiles have been seized and stolen from the formation since January 1992. Officers have had to be enlisted to guard dumps and arsenals. However, this is an enforced also measure because there the division has virtually no enlisted men and NCO's [noncommissioned officers] left (they have not had any new recruits for 18 months now).

All this is aggravated by the fueling of the situation in Baku with regard to servicemen and members of their families. Thus every servicemen may at any minute be subjected to a humiliating search by municipal militia personnel or the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry military police. As of 28 March the issue of containers for the shipment of servicemen's personal belongings out of Azerbaijan has ceased. At the same time they are constantly reminded of the need to vacate their apartments.

Therefore the officers' assembly thought it impossible for the division to stay in Azerbaijan any longer. It asked Russian President B. Yeltsin, acting Azerbaijani President Ya. Mamedov, Marshal of Aviation Ye. Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, Colonel General V. Patrikeyev, commander of the Transcaucasus Military District, and the Coordinating Council of CIS Joint Armed Forces Officers' Assemblies to resolve a number of urgent matters by 10 May, in particular, to ensure the safety of servicemen, stop discrimination against officers, warrant officers, and members of their families in their daily lives, and pay the salaries owed. It has to be noted that the appeal from the division officers' assembly was couched in categorical tones. But you must realize the circumstances in which servicemen have found themselves. Obviously, most of the issues that they have raised can only be resolved as a result of an interstate agreement between Russia and Azerbaijan.

Leading APF Member Kamberov Killed in Clashes

NC0105195392 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] The Azerbaijan Popular Front [APF] press center has disclosed that Ramiz Kamberov, leader of the APF [word indistinct], member of the APF Supreme Assembly, and commander of the Shusha City Defense Battalion, which is made up of volunteers, died heroically in a clash in [name indistinct] area yesterday. Several members of the battalion—K. Beshirov, Meryam Kuliyev, Ferruh Mukhtarov, and Elchin Askerov—also were killed in the clashes.

Ramiz Kamberov was buried in Shusha city today.

TV Feature Examines Pre-Election Scene

LD3004111592

[Editorial Report] Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian at 1914 GMT on 27 April carries a "Novaya Studiya" presentation of the "Situation" feature on the "Author's Television" program, a 40-mimute review of the Azerbaijani presidential elections scheduled for 7 June. Eldar Namazov, identified by caption as the head of the Baku Political Studies Center, surveys the background of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and former president Ayaz Mutalibov's Karabakh policy.

Set against video of mountainous rural scenery and strains of ethnic music, correspondent Vasiliy Antipov says:

"We shall not undertake to draw any conclusions on who is to blame in the Karabakh conflict. Neither historians, nor academic historians or journalists all over the world can sort that out. But the war is on, eating up 30 percent of the republican budget and wearing out the human spirit. People are in a state verging on depression. At present, when airing their election manifestos, the republic's political leaders cannot avoid the military problem. All are offering their ways of emerging from the Karabakh crisis. Military failures and defeats are having their effect on the political struggle. The political struggle, conversely, is openly or covertly having its effect on military actions. Part of the weaponry allocated for the front is in Baku. Many formations of the self-defense forces have been set up and armed by—and are under the control of—various political trends. Yagub Mamedov, the chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, who is acting President of the Republic, is trying to use personnel reshuffles to find a common language with the opposition and to bring about military reform. Opponents of any abrupt change in the political line see in Yagub Mamedov a real candidate for the post of president."

Mamedov, shown interviewed in an office, with graphic superimposition of the Azeri flag and a presidential chair, begins:

"We talked a lot about it, there was a great deal of discussion both in parliament and the National Council and in the Presidential Council, and the army was not in fact set up. No army was set up, a Ministry of Defense was set up. The Minster of Defense was changed every month and that allowed individual people to create their own army, the so-called self-defense detachments. Every rayon, every village, every leader set up something, starting with the town of Baku and ending with the rayons on the front. Now, of course, it is difficult to gather them all together, but we have started to unite them. As regards personnel we are looking at whom to leave and whom to discharge. Until then, we cannot say we have a national army."

Antipov, speaking off camera, asks Mamedov how he finds the time to run the country and run an election campaign. Mamedov replies: "Certain organizatons and collectives have nominated me, but I have not yet said the final word. But if I do indeed run, the main thing for me is stabilization of the situation in the republic and a settlement of the Karabakh conflict. I shall do everything possible not to take the line of confrontation, but, on the contrary, to alleviate these confrontations."

Over video of Mamedov having talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, the correspondent goes on: "The traditional foreign policy line to which presidential candidate Yagub Mamedov declares his allegiance differs radically from the manifestos of the opposition forces, the mightiest of which is the People's Front of Azerbaijan, which played the main role in Mutalibov's resignation. The People's Front provokes the most contradictory evaluations: some fasten their hopes on it, other see the People's Front as a destabilizing force."

Continuing, the correspondent says: "The People's Front has nominated as its presidential condidate its permanent chairman, the historian and former political prisoner Abulfaz Elchibey. In an election campaign speech, the candidate said: I have brought the people the banner of right and justice, not a sword."

In an interview with the correspondent, Elchibey asserts that there is no true democracy in Azerbaijan, hence the disintegration of the country.

Niyazi Ibragimov, deputy chairman of the People's Front of Azerbaijan, leader of the Musavat group, is asked in a separate interview: "If the People's Front wins in the presidential elections, what will relations with the CIS be, will you establish contacts, and sign agreements and so on? " Ibragimov replies: "On joining the CIS? No!" Ibragimov asserts that the economic ties established when Azerbaijan was part of the USSR must not be destroyed, but the emphasis should be on bilateral agreements between Azerbaijan and other states. At the same time, Azerbaijan should follow a policy of gradually reorienting economic relations, first toward Europe. He says: "We see Turkey as a mediator between Azerbaijan and the countries of Europe. Furthermore, Turkey most closely approximates to the European state and political model, that is that of the front-ranking states. The model of Russia, and all the more so that of Iran, are unacceptable as far as we are concerned." The People's Front's program on the Karabakh conflict, Ibragimov says, involves "first and foremost the immediate creation of armed forces of Azerbaijan, capable of defending the rights and lives of its citizens and the inviolaobility of its territory; and secondly, starting immediate negotiations with Armenia, without mediators", i.e., without Iran and Russia, which have their own interests in the area.

Following a brief survey of the political roster in Azerbaijan, the correspondent interviews a local rayon soviet official, a People's Front member in military uniform who discusses the role of the People's Front at local level. Etibar Mamedov, leader of the National Independence Party which split off from the People's Front, is interviewed, as a presidential candidate, on his differences with the People's Front. Mamedov puts national independence first, with the emphasis on nationalism. On Karabakh, he calls for withdrawal of foreign troops and negotiations, but is not optimistic about any reconciliation between the two nations.

Next, Araz Alizade, leader of the Azerbaijan Social-Democratic Party, says that people are weary of radicalism, and asserts that the only thing that will save Azerbaijan today is a coalition,—not a political coalition, but a coalition of professional forces.

On Karabakh, Alizade says: "Until we have a strong army, no one will sit down at the negotiating table with us." He advocates a return to the status quo, whereby Azerbaijan repeals its anti-constitutional decision on annexing Nagorno-Karabakh; international forces should be involved, and Karabakh should be declared a demilitarized zone, with the harshest penalties for all found carrying arms.

Over video of maps and scenery, a bust of Aliyev and then Aliyev himself, the correspondent moves on to the Nakhichevan autonomous oblast, "which places more reliance on its closest neighbors Iran and Turkey than on its native Baku. Nakhichevan is blockaded. The citizens of Nachichevan believe that had their countryman Geydar Aliyev not returned to his home town, they would not have avoided a war," he says.

The correspondent notes that after retiring from the CPSU Politburo and the Soviet Council of Ministers in 1987, "Aliyev was unanimously elected chairman of the Supreme Majlis of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic in September 1991. Both democrats and former communists voted for him. The experienced politician found a common language with the local section of the People's Front. He speaks directly with the

Armenian leadership, achieving success in settling border conflicts. Aliyev left the party at the beginning of 1991. He has joined no other party, regarding himself as an independent politician."

The video caption at this point reads: "According to the Azerbaijani Constitution, Geydar Aliyev does not meet the age qualification to stand for president." Interviewed in his office, beneath a photograph of himself in a Brezhnev-period Politburo line-up, Aliyev says he had at first refused to stand for the post of Majlis chairman, but he agreed in response to popular demand: "I have always bent to the will of the people," he affirms. The situation in Azerbaijan is distinguished by the Karabakh problem and by the virtual war between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Although this is predominant in people's thoughts, the economy should not be pushed into the background. "As for the economy, real measures must be implemented to establish the principle of a free economic system," Aliyev says.

Over video of the region, with border posts, guards and a bridge under construction, Antipov comments: "It is a paradoxical situation. The border of the former Union republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia is almost hermetically sealed. It is far simpler for the inhabitants of Nakhichevan to build a bridge over the Araks River and cross the border with Turkey. The status of a free economic zone opens up favorable prospects for creating transparent borders. Even our film crew, with no visas or foreign passports, was able to go into Turkey."

Video returns to the interview with Aliyev, who speaks of the great admiration for Ataturk in Azerbaijan. The correspondent then asks: "I would like to ask something . Azerbaijan currently is in a very bad economic state. Why did Turkey give $100 million to the Nakhichevan republic, not to Azerbaijan?" Aliyev replies: "You know, I am not informed about what contacts and what talks the Azerbaijani leaders had with Turkey, I do not know about that. But I was invited to Turkey by the Turkish Government, had a meeting with Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, I mean with President Turgut Ozal and Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, and with almost all the ministers and members of the cabinet of ministers, and when I asked them for a credit of 100 million, they did not refuse. What is more, we drew up a very big protocol signed by the Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel and myself. This protocol is a big program for Nakhichevan's economic development, involving not only $100 million of credit, but also technical and economic assistance and assistance in terms of advisers and so on, as envisaged in the protocol. If people ask more of me, then, of course, it is simply morally impermissible for me to refuse the will of the people."

Over video of refugees illuminated by automobile headlights, the correspondent concludes by saying that people have lost faith in their leaders in the present climate of strife beween Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Presidential Candidate Cited on Elections

LD3004104992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Report on news conference in Baku on 25 April by correspondent M. Mamedov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Mamedov] The news conference was held by Tamerlan Tarayev, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, who has been nominated as a candidate for the post of president. He reminded journalists that the Popular Front, of which he is a member, had spoken out categorically against the holding of elections. We, he noted, believe that in the conditions of continuing aggression on the part of Armenia, this campaign will lead to a split in society. However, parliament did not resist the temptation of a struggle for power. The situation in the republic has noticeably deteriorated. Tamerlan Tarayev called the Supreme Soviet's decision on an age limit antidemocratic. He thinks that this was directed against a specific individual—Gaydar Aliyev. The people have the right to elect as head of a state the person they think should be there.

The deputy chairman of the parliament stressed that there is a danger of one totalitarian regime being replaced by another.

[Begin recording] [T. Tarayev, caption-identified as chairman of the supreme soviet] I have little hope that these elections will be held. Well, Why? Because in general the result is clear. If these elections are held and they are held in a democratic manner, relatively democratically at least, that is, monitored by several sides, there can be no doubt that those circles who rule this republic, that is the power, let's say, of the former communist bloc, or whatever you like, will not be elected. Their representatives will not be elected. Representatives of the opposition will be elected. I do not think that they will allow these elections to be held. [end recording]

Presidential Candidate Cited on Policy

PM3004143192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 30 Apr 92 p 1

[RIA, IMA-Press report under the "Just the Facts" rubric]

[Text] Azerbaijan People's Front Chairman Abdulfaz Aliyev—the most popular candidate for the post of president of the republic, according to public opinion polls (45.4 percent of those polled)—has stated that Azerbaijan will have its own national currency, possibly as early as the beginning of June. He also said that the new leadership will open the border with Turkey and Iran, and that "No one will create any obstacles in the way of Armenians not wishing to live on Azerbaijani soil."

Aliyev 'Has No Thoughts of Leaving Nakhichevan'

PM3004140192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 30 Apr 92 p 1

[RIA report under the "Just the Facts" rubric: "Politics"]

[Text] Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic Mejlis, has said that he is not interfering in the Azerbaijan presidential elections, and that he has no thoughts of leaving Nakhichevan.

Mutalibov Supporters Hold Rally in Baku

LD0405151692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Hundreds of supporters of former Azerbaijan president Mutalibov gathered today at a rally in front of the Supreme Soviet building in Baku. They demand his return to the top post in the state. The campaign is led by (Abdul), a cleric and member of the Azerbaijan parliament.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Estonia

NC0405192392 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Estonia and Azerbaijan have established diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level. The ties have been established through the exchange of memorandums between the two countries' Foreign Ministries.

Georgia

Situation in Republic 'Becoming Stable'

LD0405224392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 4 May 92

[Video report by correspondent N. Kandiashvili, including recorded remarks by Tbilisi Commandant G. Gula; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpt] The situation in Georgia is becoming stable. Only individual destructive forces are preventing a calm way of life from returning to the people and city of Tbilisi. The bodies responsible for internal affairs are taking every measure to resolve these problems.

[Gula] All the militia's weapons were confiscated and taken directly to the offices of the government. There they were given out. A name was called out from a list, and a weapon was handed out; a citizen who was there guarding the palace and the president had to sign for this. In this connection, a certain amount of work has been done, and soon the time will come when there will be complete stabilization. Naturally, the curfew will then be lifted. [passage omitted]

Situation in West Georgia Reportedly Improves

AU0505092692 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0200 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] We received this information last night over the phone from (?Gocha) Gabunia, Zugdidi's military commander. There is a clear tendency toward an improvement of the political situation in Zugdidi. During the last few days, there have been no complications or excesses of any kind. There have been no information rallies and no serious crimes have been registered. The majority of schools have resumed studies. The region is receiving republican TV programs. It is noteworthy that, after having been closed for a long time, [word indistinct] has opened. A number of ladies (?in black) tried to prevent the distribution of the press but the town's citizens themselves stopped this action without any complications arising. The fines for breaking the curfew have amounted to 7,000 rubles and this sum has been transferred to Zugdidi's restoration fund.

[name indistinct] Gogua, Chkhorotsqu's [town east of Zugdidi in western Georgia] local administration board chairman, has informed us over the phone that the situation in the rayon is normal. (?Small numbers) of supporters of destabilization are having no influence upon the majority of workers. During the last few days, there have been no serious crimes in the region. Studies are continuing normally and enterprises and establishments are working. [passage indistinct]

The political situation in Poti is basically stable although it has become tense at times. Recently, an attempt was made (?to burn down) a building belonging to the town's [word indistinct] 16th secondary school but it was thwarted by law enforcement workers. The criminals managed to escape. No serious crimes have been (?registered) in the town for some time now. Studies are continuing without interruption at the town's schools. Those enterprises that have raw materials are functioning normally. We received this information last night from Soso Aleksandria, Poti's local administration board chairman.

One more item of news from Poti. A ship has arrived at the port with 28,400 tons of American wheat. [passage indistinct]

Agreement Signed With S. Ossetian Popular Front

OW0205170892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1539 GMT 2 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a press conference in Moscow today, the leader of the Popular Front of Georgia and chairman of a special government commission on problems of the Tskhinval region, Nodar Natadze, said the leadership of the Georgian Popular Front and the Charter '91 organization, on the one hand, and the leadership of the Popular Front of South Ossetia, on the other, had signed an agreement in Copenhagen on the settlement of the

Georgian-Ossetian conflict. On the Ossetian side the agreement was signed by Popular Front chairman Alan Chochiyev.

Natadze stressed that, although this was an unofficial agreement, it did provide a practical basis for a ceasefire and the withdrawal of armed detachments on both sides from the frontline.

Natadze said the Georgian side would strictly keep to the terms of the agreement but he was not sure the conflict could be brought to an end within the next few months. However he pointed out a few factors facilitating the implementation of the agreement, such as the withdrawal of Russian forces from South Ossetia and the fact that such leading political organizations as Charter '91 and the Georgian and South Ossetian Popular fronts had decided to look for peaceful means to settle the conflict.

The sides are planning to invite officials from the International Red Cross and from some European countries as observers.

N. Caucasus Confederation Chief Interviewed

MK0105092592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Apr 92 p 3

[Interview with Musa Shanibov by Natalya Pachegina under Caucasus" rubric; place and date not given: "'If Mankind Found Out the Whole Truth About South Ossetia, It Would Be Horrified,' Musa Shanibov, President of the Confederation of North Caucasus Mountain Peoples, Believes"]

[Text] [Pachegina] Has the session of the Confederation of Caucasus Mountain People held in Tskhinval done anything new to resolve the Georgian-Ossetian conflict?

[Shanibov] I was not present at this session of the confederation for an entirely prosaic reason: I was the keynote speaker at the congress of Kabardinian people which was being held on the same days in Nalchik. But our leadership had decided to hold the routine session of the confederation in Tskhinval back in Groznyy at the previous meeting of Caucasus peoples.

For us South Ossetia is an open wound. The tragedy must be stopped. Terror typical of the Middle Ages is reigning there. The world does not know the truth about what is happening there. We are obtaining detailed information about the situation in South Ossetia—ritual killings have been revived there.

I believe that the seventh session of the confederation put forward concrete proposals to resolve this conflict. In the near future I will have to go to Georgia for a meeting with Eduard Shevardnadze. I am sure that the Georgian side is also interested in putting an end to the bloodshed as quickly as possible. At the previous session in Groznyy the issue of bringing the confederation's military formations into the conflict zone was also raised, but without coordinating this issue with the Georgian side, it would not be entirely correct for us to make this decision. On 16 May we will hold a session of the Caucasus parliament in Makhachkala, and following consultations with representatives of the Caucasus peoples, I intend to meet with the Georgian Republic State Council.

[Pachegina] How will the negotiating process develop between the conflicting sides themselves?

[Shanibov] It seems to me that talks between the sides with the participation of the Russian Federation should continue. We have already been involved in this problem for three years, but if it is resolved without our intervention, we can only be delighted. We expressed our position resolutely a long time ago: The fratricidal war must be stopped immediately. As soon as the confederation notices progress in the talks, it will go along with a reasonable decision. The Confederation of Caucasus Peoples will not take any independent action.

[Pachegina] Do you not think that the presence of a limited military contingent from the confederation in the conflict zone will not achieve its peacemaking purpose but, on the contrary, will render this region oversaturated with weapons?

[Shanibov] You are right, there is such a danger. But the confederation's aim in this area of the Caucasus is to put an end to the carnage and move the conflict onto the level of political decisions. Our military presence there can be justified on condition that the CIS troops are withdrawn from there. Today their withdrawal may make the situation more complex, but if an agreement is reached on having the confederation's troops in Tskhinval, then the confederation, whose authority among the peoples of the North Caucasus is extremely high, may take on the job of restraining and reconciling the warring sides

[Pachegina] What size military contingent are we talking about?

[Shanibov] The Caucasus parliament and its military committee will decide that. Today the confederation has three battalions, but as president I think that there is no need to send such large forces into this area. As far as equipping the infantry with military hardware is concerned, we could probably appeal to the CIS leadership for military hardware to be given to the confederation formations, maybe on a reciprocal basis [vzaimnoobrazno]. In the name of the future of all peoples—both of Russia and of the Caucasus.

[Pachegina] So the Confederation of Caucasus Mountain Peoples is proposing to make contact with the leadership of the CIS Joint Armed Forces?

[Shanibov] Of course, after 16 May we intend to meet with the CIS Joint Armed Forces leadership.

[Pachegina] Georgia under Gamsakhurdia was not a member of the Confederation of Caucasus Mountain

Peoples. Is a change of power in that republic capable of changing the confederation's attitude toward it?

[Shanibov] Shevardnadze's return to Georgia has completely changed the situation. We believe that this circumstance may promote the beginning of dialogue between the Caucasus peoples. Today our attitude toward Gamsakhurdia's former accomplices—Sigua, Kitovani, and Ioseliani—has also changed; we have more trust in them.

At the same time, we are very concerned about Gamsakhurdia "sitting" in Groznyy. The confederation has repeatedly expressed its dissatisfaction, to put it mildly, at the former Georgian president's presence in Chechnya. This circumstance will not give Dudayev more points, and furthermore, the confederation does not trust Gamsakhurdia to any extent whatsoever.

Russian Legion Members Captured Near Tskhinvali

LD2404155392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1930 GMT 23 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, April 23 ITAR-TASS—The destiny of two volunteers, members of the Russian Legion who arrived in Tskhinvali, the administrative centre of South Ossetia in January and were taken prisoner by representatives of armed units on April 19 near Sarabuki village remains unclear. A representative of operational group of the Russian interior forces who wished that his name not be given, expressed an extremely negative attitude to the mission of fighters from the "Russian National Legion" formed on the decision of the Congress of Patriotic Forces. He spoke over the telephone with ITAR-TASS.

"The activity of members of the legion can hardly be regarded as peace-making", the officer said. "They only destabilise the situation in the region. There are enough volunteers from military units in the region as it is. Russia has hundreds of parties and movements. What if each of them creates its own army and uses it in 'hot spots'?"

Members of the Russian Legion participated in a number of combat operations in Georgian villages near Tskhinvali. One of these operations resulted in the seizure of two volunteers.

Navy Chief Discusses Creation of Naval Forces

AU0305180392 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 14 Apr 92 p 2

[Interview with Captain 1st Rank Aleksandr Dzhavakhishvili, chief of the directorate of the Naval Forces of the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Defense, by Levan Dolidze, head of the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Defense press service; place and date not given: "Georgia Will Have its own Naval Forces"]

[Text] A little history: It is paradoxical that Georgia, a country that, since ancient times, has had a coastline, has had, in the past, neither a strong naval fleet nor talented navigators. Indeed, neither the ancient Colchians nor Laz nor Iberians were seafarers. The first foreigners came to our shores aboard the legendary "Argo" and, since then, Georgia has entered world history as the land of the "Golden Fleece."

True, in the Middle Ages, when Tsotne Dadiani ruled in Odishi and eastern Georgia was groaning beneath the heavy Mongolian yoke, the Georgians attempted to create a naval fleet, but this proved fruitless. A fire broke out on the Venetian-built ships in the port, and the entire flotilla was lost....

This is related by the famous Georgian writer Grigol Abashidze at the end of his trilogy "Tsodne Dadiani or the Rise of the Georgians." The history of Georgia also testifies to this.

It was precisely with historical questions that we began our interview with Captain 1st Rank Aleksandr Dzhavakhishvili, chief of the directorate of the Naval Forces of the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Defense.

[Dzhavakhishvili] The history of Georgia whose territory was the constant arena of military actions is full of drama and heroism. It is difficult to give a clear answer as to why such a naval power as Georgia not only did not have its own naval forces but also did not even have a proper merchant fleet. The fine traditions of naval romanticism were established by our splendid fellow countrymen: Vice Admiral Giorgiy Abashvili, Rear Admiral Semyen Ramishvili, Konstantin Sukhiashvili, Seit Kapanadze, Vladimir Lezhava, Mikhail Dzhincharadze, and other naval officers.

[Dolidze] You are an experienced naval officer in charge of the Republic of Georgia's Naval Forces. How do you view their composition?

[Dzhavakhishvili] Let us begin with the fact that Georgia, a country that has a coastal border stretching many kilometers along the Black Sea, should have reliable naval forces to protect its interests at sea. Today, nobody disputes this postulate. I believe I would not be giving away a secret if I mention that the Republic of Georgia's Naval Forces will consist of various types of fighting ships, auxiliaries and service craft, and a naval infantry.

I will emphasize here that Georgia is a peace-loving country. Even now, it is not abandoning its principles. We wish to live in peace and harmony with all neighboring states, including those that have access to the Black Sea.

[Dolidze] What kind of relations have you established with the command authorities of the Black Sea Fleet, which the republics of the former Soviet Union are trying to remove almost bit by bit?

[Dzhavakhishvili] Our very first contacts with the command authorities of the Black Sea Fleet resulted in the establishment of so-called civilized relations. Incidentally, Admiral Igor Kasatonov, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, shows a complete understanding of the complexity of the situation in our republic. We are constantly meeting and holding consultations with representatives of the Black Sea Fleet in the town of Poti. Incidentally, representatives of the CIS Naval Forces training center in Poti will soon be coming to Tbilisi on a business visit.

[Dolidze] Where and how do you intend to train future sailors and specialists?

[Dzhavakhishvili] Allow me to take advantage of your question to call upon all naval officers, warrant officers, petty officers, and sailors to whom the interests of Georgia are important and who wish to serve their country faithfully to help in the creation of naval forces and, then, to continue serving in their ranks.

Former sailors and many young people have already applied to us. Regarding the training of future sailors, we have everything in Georgia for this purpose, thank God. Everyone here remembers well how popular the Batumi Naval School [morekhodka] was and its department of naval science that functioned so successfully until recently. It was Captain 1st Rank Konstantin Mosidze who was in charge of it then. At our invitation, this great specialist has come to Georgia and has not only agreed to again take charge of his former department in the Batumi Naval School but also to prepare, together with us, everything necessary for this. There are, by the way, real pre-conditions for the creation in the future of a naval higher educational institution on the basis of the Batumi Naval School. We have received full support and understanding in this matter from the Government of the Adzharian Autonomous Republic.

We intend to open a boarding school in Poti at which naval warrant officers will be trained over a three-year period.

Poti has always been a naval town and has had good naval traditions. The Black Sea submarine brigade is based here, as is the center for training naval officers for foreign fleets. Following the transfer to the Republic of Georgia of a part of the combat and other naval equipment of the CIS Naval Forces located on the territory of our republic, broad prospects are opening up here regarding not only the training of future naval officers but also the basing of main units of the Republic of Georgia Naval Forces.

[Dolidze] It is interesting to know what uniform sailors of the Republic of Georgia Naval Forces will have and what ranks and decorations wil be introduced.

[Dzhavakhishvili] I should emphasize that work on the creation of our republic's Naval Forces began at the end of 1989/beginning of 1990. This work was conducted within the framework of the governmental commission for a naval concept. This work developed particularly intensively with the arrival of new leaders in the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Defense. They are in agreement on both the ranks and decorations of Georgia's future Armed Forces, including the Naval Forces. Work is also continuing regarding naval service.

[Dolidze] Many people are undoubtedly interested in the financial side of service in the Naval Forces.

[Dzhavakhishvili] I can assure all those who are interested in serving in the Republic of Georgia Naval Forces that the base pay of officers will not at all be lower than that of officers serving in the CIS Naval Forces. Following their transfer here from units and subunits of the Naval Forces of the collapsed empire, the general length of service in the Navy will be retained.

[Dolidze] I know from your friends that 20 years ago, you crossed the oceans in a submarine and spent 75 hours in the depths of the world's waters. Only a few people have completed such voyages. I also know that you served as deputy commander of the flotilla and held the rank of admiral for eight years but that you returned to your native Tbilisi again as captain 1st rank.

[Dzhavakhishvili] You have touched upon a complex and painful question and that affects not only me. Indeed, today, one can already talk about this openly, but who would have dared do so before? Discrimination against national cadres did exist in the former Soviet Union, and this also fully affected the military. I was not the only Georgian to hold the rank of admiral. My deputy, Engineer-Captain 1st Rank Guram Tsirveli, such a fine specialist in naval matters, was also an admiral for many years but, alas,.... During those years, there were over 20 captains 1st rank who were Georgians, but none of them was able to achieve a higher rank, despite the fact they were considered to be first-rate professionals. It is painfully distressing that the rank of rear admiral has not been conferred on a single Georgian during the last 25 years. However, I would like to end our conversation on an optimistic note: The Republic of Georgia will have worthy Naval Forces and also worthy admirals.

State Council Abolishes Security Ministry

OW0205170692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1539 GMT 2 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian State Council has abolished the republican Security Ministry, or the former republican KGB. It decided in Tbilisi Saturday [2 May] to set up instead a new special service—the Information Intelligence Bureau. 30-year-old philosopher Irakli Batiashvili was appointed director of the Bureau which is subordinated only to the presidium of the State Council.

Election to Supreme Soviet Set for 11 Oct

LD0105180992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1200 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] The Georgian State Council adopted a decision on holding elections to the republican Supreme Soviet on 11 October. The state of emergency and curfew in Tbilisi have been extended for yet another month.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Poland

LD0205090492 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 0800 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] An agreement establishing diplomatic relations between Poland and Georgia has been signed in Warsaw. The document was signed by the Georgian and Polish deputy ministers for foreign affairs.

Estonia

Government Adopts Program on Stabilizing Economy

OW0405183292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1812 GMT 4 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The government and the National Bank of Estonia adopted the document titled "Program of Measures To Stabilize the Economy During Monetary Reforms". The program envisions setting up a budget stabilization fund. For this a stabilization tax will be introduced together with taxes on imported goods and services.

To balance the budget, the sanctions on the companies evading taxes will be made tough while state subsidies for some industries will be terminated. Spending is going to be reduced. Principles of state control of prices are to be determined yet.

Negotiations with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank on financial aid are being planned. Negotiations with Russia on mutual payments, agreements with Lithuania and Latvia on free trade and other issues are to begin shortly.

Supreme Council Endorses Electoral Commission

LD0205025492 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Excerpt] According to ETA, the Presidium of the Supreme Council endorsed the composition of the Republic of Estonia's electoral commission at its session today. The chairman is to be elected by the commission, and 22 people belong to it. According to Narva town council, the people of Narva will not be putting forward a candidate for the commission because the majority of the town's inhabitants have no right to Estonian citizenship. It was decided to propose Jaak Kirikal as candidate chairman of the State Court to the Supreme Council. The constitution of the Estonian Conservative People's Party was registered. The party has over 300 members and its chairman is Enn Tarto. [passage omitted]

Latvia

Gorbunovs: 'USSR Army' Causing Instability

LD0105145792 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Report by correspondent Anta Busa]

[Text] Today in the Red Hall of the Supreme Council an interesting seminar is going on. It is an interational joint sitting, organized by the North Atlantic Assembly and the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia on questions of the problems and perspectives of stability and security in the Baltic region. The opening speech to the session was made by Anatolijs Gorbunovs, first thanking the NATO members for their presence and the possibility of holding such a seminar, and of course turning primarily to questions that affect us all: the problems of withdrawing the USSR Army. Listen to a fragment of the speech:

[Gorbunovs] That this Army must leave Latvia is not a question to be debated, and this is even confirmed in official statements by the Russian Government. I also think that in Western Europe, as well as Russia, Byelarus, and Ukraine, everyone, let alone in the Baltic states, who has analyzed history, understands that the question of withdrawing the former USSR Army from the Baltics is a political question. Without in any sense denying its role together with other allied anti-Hitlerite forces in 1945, we cannot but see the role of the Army in the occupation of the Baltics in 1940, carrying out the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact, in deporting Latvian citizens to Siberia in the post-war period, in eliminating the state structures of the independent state and the relations of private property to the economy, which we are today restoring with great difficulty. That, unfortunately, is the reality.

Even in 1991, during the August coup, the role of this Army in Latvia was quite different to that in Russia; it was turned against Latvia's independence. We are not claiming to take over the former USSR Army, and we are not making any demands on Russia in this connection, even though Latvian funds are being used to maintain and complement the USSR Army.

We are only demanding the return of what was grabbed in 1940 by the Red Army. Latvia had equipped an army of 60,000 men. The Russian Army will have to give back to Latvia armaments of equivalent value, for the arming of only 20,000 men. These weapons will guarantee security and trust—contrary to the practice when we were forced to arm other states.

The main question, however, is the schedule and deadline for the withdrawal of the Russian Army. Why is Russia still delaying in stating the schedule and deadline for the withdrawal of the Army—is it purely poltical, socioeconomic, or military-strategic considerations? It has been understood from what has been said by Army officers themselves that the main argument is socioeconomic circumstances, relating to the transfer of the families of about 17,000 officers. In such a case it is incomprehensible that none of the serious offers of assistance, such as that expressed by Denmark for instance, are even being accepted or discussed. The demands of the officers and their families are specific, and must be considered specifically.

I doubt whether tomorrow there will be funds in the Russian state budget for such things, but the instability created by the social problems of the officers in Latvia, as well as Russia, can only increase. We also wish to call on the Russian Government to give funds obtained from the sale of weapons (?which are being used in Latvia's

ports), to divert them immediately to the satisfaction of the social needs of the officers.

[Busa] That is the information for you about what Anatolijs Gorbunovs said in opening the Baltic Assembly seminar today in the Red Hall of the Supreme Council. Among other things, he also touched on the citizenship situation in Latvia, emphasizing that the Supreme Council, perhaps also [word indistinct] the correct solution, will not avoid entering into compromises so that citizenship will be granted also to those immigrants who are integrated here and have a command of Latvian.

Also speaking at the opening of the seminar was the vice president of the North Atlantic Assembly, Mr. Jose Lello. Michael Legge, assistant secretary general of NATO, spoke as well and the first session was concluded on the Latvian side with speeches by Defense Minister Talavs Jundzis, Defense Commission Deputy Mihails Stepicevs, and other representatives. At the moment in the Red Hall of the Supreme Council the second session of the Atlantic Assembly is taking place. Taking part in this seminar are at least 70 participants, of whom 50 are actual delegates to this seminar.

(?Separately) represented here are Bulgaria, Belgium, the CIS of course, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Germany, France, Hungary, Italy, as well as the specific representatives of NATO, Poland, Norway, Sweden, and also the United States.

Talks With Russian Experts on Army Discussed

LD0405222192 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1730 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] It seems appropriate to recall how the talks last week between experts from Latvia and Russia on the problems of the former USSR Army concluded. Journalists were told of this at a news conference in the Latvian Council of Ministers today.

The new Russia is not responsible for the occupation of Latvia—that was the Russian attitude in the talks on the withdrawal of the army from Latvia.

In the talks, the Russian side accused Latvia of trying to appropriate the territory and property of other states, and expressed dissatisfaction with the Latvian stance on the settlement of the citizenship question. Journalists were informed of this at the news conference today by (Eriks Tilgass), Latvian assistant minister of state on defense questions.

The Latvian delegation presented its proposals on a schedule for the withdrawal of the army. Our experts believe that the Russian Army should leave Latvia by September 1993, but should leave Riga by October 1992. Russia has not accepted these proposals, using the excuse that in such a short time it would not be possible to provide officers with dwellings.

In addition, Russia insisted on keeping its strategic sites in Latvia. There are three of them: the Skrunda radar station; Liepaja harbor; and the Space Reconnaissance and Baltic Regional Observation Center near Ventspils. (Eriks Tilgass) stated that Latvia had not previously even been aware of this center! The Latvian delegation did not agree that these sites should be preserved.

This round of talks between the two states' experts ended in failure. No agreement was reached on the questions under discussion, and no protocol on the talks was signed.

Lithuania

Landsbergis Protest Cable to Yeltsin Reported

LD0205184792 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Yesterday afternoon a sitting was held by the leadership of the Provisional Defense. A telegram to the Russian President Boris Yeltsin was prepared which was signed by Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Supreme Council.

It reads: Mr. President, the armed forces deployed on the territory of independent Lithuania and which fall under the Russian jurisdiction should respect the laws of Lithuania. Currently these armed forces are violating both the international obligations of Russia and the norms of behavior in the country with which it is not at war. The military airports in Kazlu Ruda, not far from Kaunas and in Kedainiai, are currently being used for bringing in new contingents of troops which we had banned. This is an illegal and blatantly insolent action which is akin to an invasion.

My demands on this issue which I personally had presented to General Mironov are being ignored. The tension around the airports is growing. I am asking you as the president of Russia and minister of defense to give orders to discontinue these actions and first of all to remove these new you contingents of the armed forces which are under your subordination from the territory of Lithuania.

Troop Withdrawal Referendum Resolution Detailed

LD0105180892 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] In accordance with a resolution of the Lithuanian parliament, the following text will be included in the referendum bulletin on the former USSR Army, to be held on 14 June:

I demand that the withdrawal of the former USSR Army from the territory of the Lithuanian Republic should be started immediately, or completed in 1992; and that damage caused to the Lithuanian people and the state should be compensated for—yes/no. The answer expressing the will of the citizen should not be deleted.

Vagnorius Cables Gaydar Urging Payment for Goods

LD0105162692 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] We have received the text of a telegram Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius sent to Deputy Russian Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar. A copy has been sent to the Russian Central Bank. The telegram says:

As we seek to implement the agreements between the Russian and Lithuanian governments on the principles of trade and economic cooperation, the normal exchange of goods by our economic subjects is being hampered by the failure of the Russian Federation to make timely payment for the products we have supplied to it. In many cases, there is a delay of more than four months between the supply of products and the payment for them. Therefore, many Lithuanian enterprises are in a difficult financial situation.

In all, Russia's enterprises owe us more than (?5) billion rubles, including (?1,539) million rubles to light industry enterprises, and about 200 million rubles to the fuel appliance works. In order that the dispatch of products Russia needs is not delayed, the Lithuanian Government urgently asks you to issue appropriate instructions for the payment of accounts.

For its part, the Lithuanian Government is taking additional steps to improve the exchange of goods.

Background, Outcome of Government 'Crisis' Viewed

PM3004141592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Apr 92 p 7

[Correspondent Yuriy Stroganov report under the "Post Factum" rubric: "'Ministerial' Crisis"]

[Text] Vilnius—The crisis in the Lithuanian Government, the twists and turns of which are currently being talked about by the republic's inhabitants—a number of key cabinet members are asking to resign—is a reflection of the prevailing sociopolitical situation in this state.

Opposition leaders and prominent economists are declaring that there is an economic crisis, whereas the statistical department, citing data relating to Lithuania's socioeconomic development in the first quarter of the year, is claiming that signs of stabilization have been detected in certain sectors of the economy, although the fall in production is continuing everywhere. A clash of differing views on the processes involved in building up the republic's economy and its move toward the market is taking place on the political battlefield. One of the most acute conflicts is that between the Bank of Lithuania and the government, which is accusing the bank of serious crimes and even... of complying with USSR laws. The bank is defending itself, believing that the accusations are unfounded and stem from an incomprehension of the essence of financial problems, and as a result its work is being disrupted.

The juices feeding this conflict have also given a "ministerial" crisis the chance to ripen. The question is being put unequivocally—who will come out on top? Prime Minister G. Vagnorius, who is demanding emergency powers, together with the forces that are backing him, or the opposition and industrialists who are accusing the premier of striving to resolve problems by edict methods. However, the departure of G. Vagnorius's cabinet will by no means definitely constitute a victory for the opposition.

But does G. Vagnorius himself, who came to power in January 1991 after the fall of K. Prunskiene's "procommunist" government—to use the words of the right-wingers—expect a collapse? And even if the membership of the cabinet changes yet again, will its policy change?

Judging solely by bare figures untainted by political emotions, this is likely. The statistics are depressing. For the sole reason that deliveries to workplaces were disrupted in March, 14,500 people stopped work every day, and there has been a loss in production of output worth some 2.4 billion rubles.

The prime minister, however, regards the slump as the result of acts by hostile forces. G. Vagnorius believes that the government is deliberately collapsing, life is being made worse artificially, hostile forces are seeking an opportunity to ensure that people's wages are not increased and that the government is unable to manage the economy and enterprises.

G. Vagnorius assesses the present situation as follows:

"The government's economic decisions are being rebuffed using antistate methods, the economic situation is being artificially aggravated, and there are attempts to deal with the government using anticonstitutional measures. When my colleagues and I refused to accept the ultimatum demands—to unconditionally subordinate ourselves to the political aims of the opposition—an attempt was made to bring the government down from within through disobedience by or the resignation of ministers with left-wing views. There have also been threats from the new majority in the Supreme Council, which has already paralyzed the work of the executive power anyway and frequently turns out to be behind the defense of economic crimes...

"In these circumstances," he stated, "the government cannot function."

Is this a warning that the entire cabinet will resign? The next few days will tell. But in any case the government must take account of deputies' opinion. Thus the government directives on replacing 30-50 percent of senior officials in ministries and state institutions that have caused a rumpus in the republic have not been implemented. The Supreme Council has adopted a resolution abolishing the directives. The prime minister has thus been unable to exercise one of the elements of his emergency powers. For the time being it is also proving impossible to secure amendments to the law on strengthening the responsibility of officials and self-governing bodies.